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ROLLING REPORTER

Eight-time world-champion logroller and Iraq war veteran J.R. Salzman is covering this year's Warrior Games for The American Legion's Burn Pit blog. Wounded, ill and injured servicemembers are set to compete in Colorado Springs, Colo., April 30 to May 3. In 2006, while serving with the Minnesota National Guard in Iraq, Salzman lost his arm in an IED attack. He returned to dominate his sport even as he adjusted to his new prosthetic limb. Andrew Owens

Salzman's "Lumberjack in a Desert" blog: www.jrsalzman.com

Read an interview with Salzman: www.legion.org/magazine

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.5 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at \$2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.

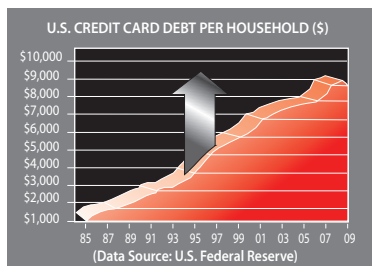
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'Ill Winds of Change'

I read the article by Ben Barber (March), and was disappointed in its apparent message: dread of a state dominated by a governing body of Islam-adhering members. We Christians might recall that the most horrific destruction of human life in the past 100 years was during World War I and World War II. They were not precipitated by Muslim nations, to my recollection. I read once that an estimated 85 million people were killed in World War II, mostly civilians.

Let's see what happens with these new governments. They could be another Turkey or Indonesia.

— Joseph J. Bailey, Valley Center, Calif.



This analysis of the so-called Arab Spring was spot on. If someone of Ben Barber's caliber was on the State Department staff, maybe Secretary Hillary Clinton wouldn't have encouraged the destabilizing revolts across the Arab world. Hosni Mubarak may have been a strong-handed monarch, but he was a U.S. ally and quite helpful in tightening the noose around jihadist terrorism. Why, then, did she encourage his ouster, leaving Egypt's rule to the Muslim Brotherhood – the seed of Islamic extremism?

— Bill Merrill, El Paso, Texas

Thank you for the great article. I sincerely hope we haven't traded dictators and tyrants we at least knew for dictators and tyrants we don't. I'll be surprised if anything good comes of it all.

— Lou Lavender, Bartlett, N.H.

'The Strenuous Life'

In Jeff Stoffer's article (March), Theodore Roosevelt IV says, "I am ... distressed by the lack of civil discourse in American politics today. We

don't listen to each other. We've lost our sense of social capital, the ability to come together and do great things. That's what built America." Members of Congress should read that and feel ashamed of themselves.

— Sterling Embry, Cordele, Ga.

Great article on the Roosevelts. But I was wondering why you didn't list President Teddy's Medal of Honor. He and Teddy Jr. were only the second father-and-son duo to receive the award. The first was Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his father, Arthur MacArthur.

— Dale Punch, Lincoln, N.C.

'All They Need is a Chance'

Andy Romey's article (March) brings to the forefront a problem – veteran homelessness – that has been shoved into the background for too long. This country is full of empty buildings. There is no reason for a veteran to be on our streets unless he is being honored in a parade for his service.

A few days before I read this story, I read about a veterans retirement home at which the

number of residents was down by more than 100. Why not fill it with homeless vets? They would have a home, a possible job, and health care at its clinic. There is no excuse for a veteran freezing in the streets, as long as there are warm rooms open in government buildings.

— Steve Provo, Remington, Ind.

Balanced budget amendment

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.'s pontificating about reducing debt is without substance if significant debt reduction is not immediately addressed (Big Issues, March). Alas, though, he is constrained from talking about this because of his politics. Instead, he spews a plethora of red herrings: alleged gender, generation and infrastructure gaps. These have nothing to do with balancing the budget.

Jackson also claims that balancing the budget will negatively impact poor and working-class families. He seems oblivious to the fact that a failed government can help no one.

— Charles R. Dooley, Pickens, S.C.

There are valid arguments against a balanced budget amendment, but Rep. Jackson didn't state any of them. Instead, he ran off a list of social-engineering mantras favored by the left. He was a poor choice for this debate.

— Scott A. Jones, Council, Idaho

My question to Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. is this: how do we fulfill his ideals when we run out of money?

— Bill Weers, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

When politicians talk about trillion-dollar debt, they don't bother to break the figures down. A person born today with a life expectancy of 100 years will have to spend more than \$27 million every single day to reach \$1 trillion in his lifetime.

At present, no politician is held responsible for spending. What we need is an amendment that will give the president line-item veto authority. This was tried once by passing a law, but the Supreme Court said it was unconstitutional. An amendment ratified by three fourths of the states would be constitutional. Any president who did not veto add-on bills and any other excessive spending could be voted out next election.

— Martin D. Beatty, Delmar, Md.

Rep. Bob Goodlatte says a balanced budget amendment is needed. I strongly disagree. We need a balanced budget.

Nowhere does Goodlatte mention any specific action he would take. Would he cut military spending? Raise the retirement age for Social Security? Eliminate Medicare, as has already been proposed by some of his colleagues?

Anyone with a grasp of the situation will tell us that to balance the federal budget, everyone — including the wealthiest 1 percent — will have to pay their fair share of taxes. One step would have been to allow the Bush tax cuts to expire. They were ill-advised when implemented and have not made more sense with the passage of time.

— Carl L. Hess, Ozark, Ala.

Rating upgrades for vets

The article by Tom Philpott (Veterans Update, March) really grabbed my attention. I'm in a PTS group of about 30 Vietnam War veterans, and over half of us are currently trying to upgrade our disabilities. We are routinely turned down, then allowed to appeal the decision. We are given a year to round up proof from our medical records (if they can be found), statements from civilian medical personnel (if they're still alive), and civilian medical records (if they still exist). Once you submit your appeal to VA, it can take one to three years to meet with a board. This upgrade program needs to be taught to new veterans before they are discharged or retire.

— Roger M. Pryor, Hillsboro, Mo.

'Fair Faces of Courage'

As a proud veteran of the U.S. Army Medical Corps, I want to thank you for printing the very moving painting of women in combat (Rapid Fire, March). It is a tribute to our female troops, expressing what it means to be a woman fighting for her country. It takes my breath away every time I look at it, and I hope it is circulated widely so that every American knows that women are making the ultimate sacrifice just like their male counterparts.

— Adaline Zalkin, Sarasota, Fla.

Editor's note: In "When to Turn in the Keys" (Living Well, January), "Hammond's Ride Guide" was listed as \$9.95. That is the price of the digital edition. A hard copy costs \$24.

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE WELCOMES YOUR OPINIONS

Include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters published are subject to editing. Due to the volume of mail received, not every letter can be acknowledged.

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Vietnam Wall education center in works

When I came home from the Vietnam War in 1972, our nation was bitterly divided. As we all know, the war was not easy, nor was it popular. When time came to honor those who had fought it, the process was likewise neither easy nor popular. Plans for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington met adversity at many turns. But The American Legion was an advocate from the very beginning, raising \$1.17 million for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), making our organization the largest single contributor.

Maya Lin's concept for the Wall we now consider a national treasure received considerable public criticism. The Legion never weighed in with an opinion about the aesthetics. Rather, as then-National Legislative Commission Director E. Philip Riggin put it in a 1988 letter, "we supported the process within which artistic decisions were made." The American Legion stood by Lin and the panel of judges that deemed her design the best possible tribute to our fallen comrades.

Dedication ceremonies took place on Nov. 13, 1982, at the culmination of a five-day "National Salute to Vietnam Veterans." Legionnaires from across the country participated in the parade and helped visiting Vietnam veterans and their families with lodging. Gen. William C. Westmoreland praised the Legion for its "unwavering support of the memorial" and added that "the Vietnam veteran has a loyal friend in The American Legion."

Concerns over the design, location and general message of the memorial have been forgotten since then. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial has become the most visited memorial in a city full of them. It is a place of great solemnity, respect and honor, and continues to evolve as new generations interpret the war and its meaning.

The next phase is an Education Center at the Wall. The Legion has passed two resolutions supporting the center, which is meant to be a place where the lessons of the war, its impact on our country, and the bravery of those who fought it, can be shared for decades to come. At a ceremony in March commemorating the 30th anniversary of the memorial's groundbreaking, the concept for the center was unveiled. The VVMF has a goal of housing within the center a "Wall of Faces" that will include a photo to go with every name on the Wall. Those who wish to contribute a photo or learn more can visit www.buildthecenter.org.

While a national monument to honor those who gave their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan will eventually be built in Washington, the Vietnam center includes plans to incorporate those most recent fallen heroes into its design, as well. A visit to the center will, in fact, begin with a walking history of America's wars. "Patriotism will be shown to be timeless," the center's website proclaims.

As we observe Memorial Day this month, let's acknowledge that every ceremony, every monument and every name etched into the Wall are all part of the same chain, forged through history, forever connecting "those who served, those who fell and those who wait at home." We welcome plans for the new education center as another important link in that chain.




National Commander
Fang A. Wong

MEMORANDA

'THREE SERVICEMEN' CARD

The 2013 membership card for The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion features an image of the Three Servicemen statue, designed by Frederick Hart and erected in 1984 near the Wall.



NATIONAL POST HISTORY CONTEST

Post historians should contact their department historians now regarding judging of entries during department conventions. Only the certified first-place-finishing entry from each department is eligible to be judged at the national level during the National Executive Committee's Fall Meetings in Indianapolis. Find your department information online.



www.legion.org/departments



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Reorganize financial protection bureau



SUPPORT

Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev.

■ Heller is a member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

I support strong and effective consumer protection. However, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, created by the Dodd-Frank Act, does not have the accountability or transparency necessary to make it responsive to Congress or the American people. Instead, it provides bureaucrats and a new Washington czar with unprecedented power and control over our nation's entrepreneurs and small businesses – the same people we need to hire more workers. The CFPB in its current form could affect what financial products Americans buy and how much they pay for them.

Last November, 44 senators, including myself, sent a letter to President Obama outlining improvements that should be made in the structure of the CFPB to bring transparency and accountability to the agency, such as establishing a board of directors, subjecting the CFPB to the appropriations process and congressional oversight, and consulting with small businesses.

But instead of working with Congress to create an accountable government, the president chose another go-it-alone strategy that further contributes to Washington gridlock.

The present structure of CFPB violates both basic principles of accountability and our democratic values. I believe our common-sense reforms can be adopted on a bipartisan basis while improving the structure of the CFPB.

It's past time for the president and the Senate majority to realize that the American people are tired of the bickering. They want solutions, not more political stunts. Working toward greater transparency and accountability in government should be something we can all agree on.



OPPOSE

Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio

■ Ryan is a member of the Budget and Armed Services committees.

Americans lost plenty during the past few years. At the recession's peak, nearly 9 million people had lost their jobs, while millions more lost their homes and retirement savings. The catalyst for this calamity was a Wall Street run amok. This recklessness led to today's job crisis among our youngest veterans, who have faced an unemployment rate of over 30 percent.

Congress passed one of the most comprehensive financial reforms of the past century, establishing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) in July 2011. It was created to ensure that companies give consumers the information they need prior to making financial agreements, to protect against the sort of deceptive lending practices that contributed to the economic collapse.

Unfortunately, Republicans ignored the lessons we learned and sided with Wall Street, trying to block these reforms.

Last summer, President Obama nominated Richard Cordray to serve as director of the CFPB. Nearly everyone agreed that Cordray is a highly qualified attorney with an exceptional legal background. But as months went by, it became apparent that Republicans would not confirm him or anyone else for the job. They blocked the nomination because they didn't like the newly formed agency he was chosen to lead.

In January, more than 170 days after Cordray was nominated, the president took the bold step of using constitutional powers to issue a recess appointment to install Cordray as director of the CFPB, standing up to Republican obstruction to ensure that Americans finally get the financial protection they deserve. He did the right thing.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Proponents wanted a wholesale retooling of the newly formed Consumer Financial Protection Bureau before a head of the agency was named. Others called these demands political stalling tactics.

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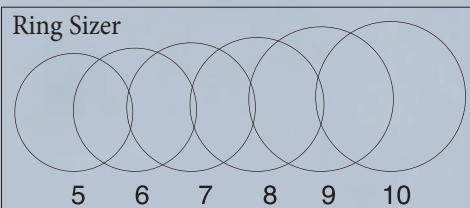
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Be supplement savvy

BY MICHELLE GIBEALT TRAUB

Americans spent more than \$25 billion on dietary supplements in 2008. With figures like that, you've likely been tempted by the promise of nutritional health aids in a bottle. Experts speculate that as our nation faces rising health-care costs, more people are turning to these supplements as a substitute for doctor visits and expensive prescriptions. While many supplements can provide much-needed nutrients or fill in the gaps of a poor diet, there is no substitute for either a physician's care or a well-balanced diet. In addition, it is extremely important to consult a trusted health-care professional before taking any supplement, because many are as powerful as prescription drugs. Consider the following before making a purchase:

General safety questions

- Is this made by a reputable manufacturer?
- Can I get more information about this product by phone or via an informative website?
- What does my pharmacist or nutritionist think of this product?
- Why do I need this supplement?
- What is the suggested serving size?
- Will I be able to swallow a pill, or do I need a chewable or liquid version?

What to look for on the label

Ingredients Check for filler ingredients or anything you might be allergic to.

USP verification Look for a seal offering proof that the supplement has passed USP's requirements for quality.

Percentage of Daily Values Be sure these do not exceed 500 percent (unless greater amounts have been recommended by your doctor).

"Best by" dates Make sure the product hasn't expired, since some supplements lose their potency over time.

Potential side effects

Calcium or iron pills May cause constipation if taken on an empty stomach.

Magnesium or vitamin C Can result in diarrhea if taken in large doses.

Fish oil capsules Can lead to "fish burps" if not kept refrigerated.

Multivitamins Can cause nausea if not taken with food.

Reliable resources on nutritional supplements

United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) www.usp.org

ConsumerLab.com www.consumerlab.com

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics www.eatright.org

Mayo Clinic www.mayoclinic.com

Michelle Gibeault Traub is a registered dietitian and health writer.

Media Bakery

Good mood foods

If you've got the blues, eat some fish. That's just one of several foods that can elevate your mood, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians. Substances in some foods help your brain make chemicals called neurotransmitters – such as serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine – that relay messages throughout the brain and affect mood, alertness, sleep and memory.

MOOD BOOSTERS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

Folate | Broccoli, beets, asparagus, lentils, oranges, whole-grain cereals, fortified breakfast cereals



Magnesium | Avocados, almonds, spinach, brown rice, pinto beans, wheat bran, oatmeal, peanut butter



Omega-3 fatty acids |

Oily fish (including salmon, mackerel, herring and sardines), walnuts, flaxseed



Tryptophan | Turkey, chicken, beef, pork, eggs, pumpkin seeds, cashews, soybeans



Media Bakery photos

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

Feel Like You're Defying Gravity

This is my story

I used to be more active. I used to run, play basketball, tennis; football... I was more than a weekend warrior. I woke up every day filled with life! But now, in my late 30's, I spend most of my day in the office or sacked out in front of the TV. My energy has fizzled and I'm embarrassed to admit that I've grown a spare tire (I'm sure it's hurting my love life). Nowadays I rarely walk. For some reason it's just harder now. Gravity has done a job on me.

Wear them and you'll know

But that's when a friend told me about a new kind of shoe. A shoe biomechanically engineered to make standing and walking on hard surfaces like concrete, tile and linoleum easy. They defy the force of gravity by absorbing harmful impact and propel you forward maximizing energy return. The longer he talked, the more sense it made. He was even wearing a pair himself!

Excitement swept through my body

I received my package from GravityDefyer.com and rushed to tear it open like a kid at Christmas. Inside I found the most amazing shoes I had ever seen – different than most athletic shoes. Sturdy construction. Cool colors. Nice lines... I was holding a miracle of technology. This was the real thing.

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- Have Instant Comfort
- Improve Energy Return
- Appear Taller
- Cools Feet
- Reduces Foot Odor
- Customize Your Fit
Accommodate most orthotics

Energy
without
the can!

I put them on and all I could say was, "WOW!" In minutes I was out the door. I was invincible; tireless in my new Gravity Defyer shoes. Years of feeling exhaustion seemed to slip away. It was as if my legs had been replaced with super-powered bionics. At last, I was back in the game. Gravity has no power over me!

Customer Satisfaction Speaks for Itself!

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REBOUND PROPELS YOU FORWARD
Maximize energy return.

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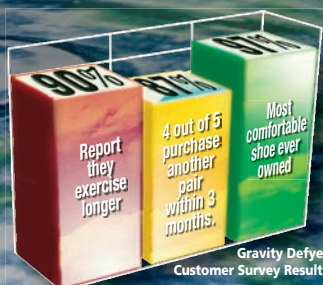
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Prostate disease? You have options

BY MARK FUERST

If you have been diagnosed with prostate cancer or benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), you may have more options than you think. In addition to traditional pharmaceutical drugs, surgery and radiation therapy, there are a number of dietary and lifestyle changes you can make, says Dr. Aaron Katz, vice chairman of urology and director of the Center for Holistic Urology at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. He offers these tips for treating and preventing prostate disease:

DIETARY STRATEGIES

Cut the fat. Studies suggest that dietary fat intake and prostate cancer incidence are intimately related. Eat a diet composed of less than 30 percent fat, and choose unsaturated fats such as olive and canola oils over saturated and trans fats.

Improve your omega-6/omega-3 ratio.

Omega-3 fats (found in fatty deep-water fish and flaxseeds) appear to protect the prostate, while omega-6 fats (found in vegetable oils) may have a disease-promoting effect. Eat lots of salmon, sardines, cod and ground flaxseeds, and avoid foods made with vegetable oils like corn and soy.

Go organic. Your best chance of avoiding contaminants in your food is to eat a largely organic and vegetarian diet. Organic foods are raised, grown and produced without the use of chemical pesticides, hormones or drugs.

Fill up on fiber. Research shows an inverse relationship between prostate-cancer incidence and intake of dietary fiber. Up your fiber intake by eating one big green salad every day, breakfasting on a bowl of steel-cut or slow-cooked oats, and switching from refined to whole grains.



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Eat your antioxidants. Free-radical damage to DNA has been linked to many cancers, including that of the prostate. Eat lots of foods rich in antioxidants, which protect cells against free radicals. These include leafy greens, cruciferous vegetables and deeply colored fruits, especially berries.

LIFESTYLE CHOICES

Reduce your stress. Stress amplifies the production of free radicals, hampers the function of the immune system and has been linked with premature aging. Try stress-reduction techniques such as progressive relaxation, deep breathing, visualization or meditation.

Laugh. Researchers at UCLA are currently studying the ability of humor to blunt stress-induced physiological changes. Laughter also releases the body's natural opiates into the bloodstream, dulling pain and improving mood. So head to the video store and pick out some funny movies.

Exercise regularly. Moderate exercise increases the body's production of antioxidant substances and mildly boosts immune function. Try to fit in

three or more workouts per week. Men undergoing treatment for cancer or BPH may be better off sticking with very gentle exercises like yoga, tai chi, or chi kung.

Detoxify your home. Trade out your conventional cleaning products for nontoxic alternatives, your garden pesticides for pest-eating bugs, and your synthetic carpets for natural ones like wool.

Design your space. When colors, light, decoration, sounds, objects and overall design are pleasing to our senses, it's much easier to relax and enjoy yourself. Feng shui is an effective tool for making your surroundings less stressful and more health-promoting.

Mark Fuerst is a Brooklyn-based health and medical writer.



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Is your job making you fat?

Desk jobs may be largely to blame for Americans' expanding waistlines. Less than 20 percent of jobs today require moderate physical activity, compared to 48 percent of jobs in 1960.

Thanks to the increase in sedentary jobs over the past 50 years, men now burn 142 fewer calories per day at work than they did in 1960, according to a recent study by researchers at Louisiana State University and two other universities. That's enough to account for an average weight in men today that's 28 pounds higher than five decades ago.

Women haven't fared any better. They burn 124 fewer calories per day at work than they did in 1960, enough to account for a 24-pound increase in weight. To counteract all that sitting down on the job, being physically active during leisure time is more important than ever, researchers say.



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Fight the fridge

The Cleveland Clinic offers some healthy alternatives to the most common high-fat, low-nutrition munchies.

- 1 Instead of snacking on high-salt, high-calorie chips and dip, try multigrain or baked reduced-fat chips with salsa or a yogurt-based dip.



- 2 Most ice creams are high in saturated fat, sugar and calories. Try frozen fruit bars, low-fat ice cream or frozen yogurt instead, or stir blueberries or raspberries into fat-free yogurt and freeze it. "If you must have the real thing, go out for a single scoop of ice cream and then take a 30-minute walk."

- 3 PB&J is known as an ideal comfort-food snack. But although "peanut butter has fiber, protein, B vitamins and monounsaturated fats ... it's high in calories.

Store brands have added sugar and salt. Traditional white bread has little nutritional value, and jelly is 100-percent sugar." So try whole-wheat bread and fresh-ground peanut butter. "Sweeten with sliced bananas or one tablespoon of pure fruit spread, or spread peanut butter on apple slices."



- 4 "Extra cake in the fridge just begs to be eaten; store-bought cakes, in particular, are high in sugar, saturated fat and trans fat." Try homemade angel food or sponge cake instead. "Or share a single decadent piece of your favorite cake at a restaurant – with no leftovers to tempt you."



- 5 Sugary sodas have virtually no nutritive value. Try making your own juice spritzers as an alternative. "Mix $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of 100-percent grape, orange or cranberry-blend juice with ice and a splash of less-sweet ginger ale or sugar-free lemon-lime soda."



Media Bakery photos

Find out more:

 cchealth.clevelandclinic.org/cover/fridge-raid

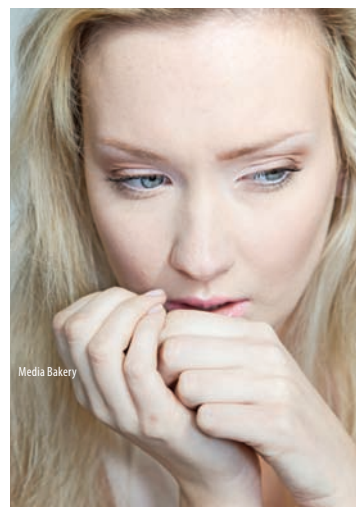
Mental health problems increase among Americans

About 25 percent of Americans reported having a mental health problem in the last year, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and half of all Americans will experience a mental health problem in their lifetimes.

Mental health problems run the gamut, from depression and anxiety disorders to post-traumatic stress and suicide. In 2004, 11 million individuals had

mental illnesses that affected their abilities to function, 8.4 million had suicidal thoughts, and 2.2 million admit they made plans to commit suicide.

Mental health disorders account for more disability than any other illness, including cancer and heart disease. Greater use of mental health treatment services could reduce the burden, since many mental health problems can be successfully treated, the CDC reports.



Media Bakery

Advances in 911 care

Medical advances that save lives in hospitals and on the battlefields are often slow to become available to civilian emergency responders, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. That makes the very first responders – the people who make the 911 calls – an essential part of the emergency-care team.

“Emergency medical systems and ambulance companies are driving the efforts to change,” the *Journal* reports. Topping the list of changes is special training for 911 call centers, to help emergency operators instruct callers on when and how to administer CPR. Given that cardiac arrest kills some 300,000 people a year in the United States, these changes are expected to save many lives.

Also, a number of emergency responders are beginning to equip ambulances with digital transmission systems to send electrocardiograms to hospitals. Some are fitting their ambulances with automated chest-compression machines, and several are even equipping their EMT units with quick-clotting bandages, which were first developed for troops fighting in Iraq. And more EMTs are being trained “to chill cardiac-arrest patients after resuscitating them, as is often done in hospitals,” the *Journal* reports. “The procedure has been shown to increase patients’ chances of surviving without brain damage.”

Andreas Grabinsky, head of emergency and trauma anesthesia at the University of Washington’s Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, says the goal is to train the nation’s paramedics “to be as good as physicians when treating patients in the field.”



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A large advertisement for Budweiser. The background is a dark red surface covered in water droplets. In the foreground, three cans of Budweiser beer are shown, partially submerged in water. The cans are white with red and gold labels. The central can is the most prominent, showing the Budweiser logo and the text "KING OF BEERS". To the right of the cans, the Budweiser logo is displayed in a large, stylized font. Below the logo, a blue banner with gold stars contains the text "HERE'S TO THE HEROES". At the bottom right, the text "PROUD TO SERVE, THOSE WHO SERVE." is written in a bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the text "ENJOY RESPONSIBLY" and "©2011 Anheuser-Busch, Budweiser® Beer, St. Louis, MO" is visible.

ENJOY RESPONSIBLY
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Bill seeks to modify 90/10 rule

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., architect of the Post-9/11 GI Bill program, says Congress needs to take new action to protect that prized education benefit, as well as military tuition assistance dollars, from abusive practices.

To date, Congress has been reluctant to face down the powerful for-profit college lobby as industry profits soared through aggressive marketing to veterans after the program took effect in August 2009.

Bills to protect veterans from misinformation, fraud and education plans marred by steep fees and high washout rates have so far centered on modifying the 90/10 rule of the Higher Education Act.

Proponents contend that Webb and a group of Senate colleagues have taken a new approach, with the Military and Veterans Educational Reform Act of 2012.

The bipartisan bill, S. 2179, would require that education programs accepting GI Bill and military tuition assistance payments be “Title IV-eligible” – i.e., accredited by a Department of Education-approved accrediting agency. Bad actors among for-profit schools have set up their “accrediting agencies” to circumvent more rigid standards the department imposes on schools to gain regional or national accreditation.

To be Title IV-compliant, for example, new schools must have undergraduate withdrawal rates of 33 percent or less. And the Department of Education conducts mandatory reviews of schools with high dropout or default rates, with the threat of sanctions or penalties.

S. 2179 would also expand the responsibilities of state-approving agencies (SAAs), which VA pays to clear courses for GI Bill eligibility. Webb’s bill would require SAAs to do more outreach to veterans and servicemembers, conduct audits of schools, send their findings to VA and develop a central complaint process.

Webb said a “big surprise” for him after the Post-9/11 GI Bill kicked in was learning that SAAs weren’t “playing the same kind of role in the VA

education system” they had when Vietnam-era veterans were using GI Bill benefits in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Schools with 20 or more students using VA or DoD educational assistance would have to provide support services to them. And to improve transparency, schools would have to disclose graduation rates, default rates and other information critical

for prospective students to judge the best academic programs for their own needs and goals.

In 2009, 15 publicly traded for-profit education companies spent \$3.7 billion on marketing, and Webb said a “disproportionate share” was used to entice veterans “into poorly performing” programs.

Webb’s bill doesn’t touch on reform of the 90/10 rule, which sets the proportion of payments for-profit colleges can receive from federal student grants or

loans. For schools to remain qualified for federal money, no more than 90 percent of school revenues can come from the Department of Education. In other words, for-profit schools must be of sufficient quality that at least 10 percent of total revenues come from students willing to pay out of pocket. The Post-9/11 GI Bill obliterated its effectiveness, because GI Bill dollars are now counted as part of that 10 percent of revenue. Thus, for every GI Bill student who enrolls in a for-profit school, the school can enroll nine whose education costs are funded through the Department of Education.

Webb has co-sponsored S. 2116, a bill introduced by Sen. Thomas Carper, D-Del., that would change the 90/10 rule so that GI Bill dollars must be counted under the 90-percent ceiling on federal grants and loan payments. It’s unclear whether either bill will be approved this year, but veterans advocates are encouraged that Webb is so solidly behind passage of S. 2179.

Tom Philpott, a former Coast Guardsman, has written about veterans and military personnel for more than 30 years.



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*The Aisne-Marne
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near Belleau, France,
is home to the graves
of 2,289 Americans
who fought in the
region during the
summer of 1918.*

SEALED IN BLOOD

Memorial Day at Belleau Wood highlights bonds forged on the battlefield.

As Marine Corps Commandant James Amos kneels, Belleau Wood is silent, save for scattered bird songs and the rustling of leaves overhead.

He sets a small token at the base of the Marine monument – a commemorative coin given to him from members of Task Force Belleau Wood serving in Afghanistan.

Soon, hundreds will fill the nearby cemetery for a Memorial Day ceremony. But here, now, in the heart of Belleau Wood, Amos and the Marines behind him are privately honoring those who died taking this forest in one of World War I's ugliest battles.

Lt. Gen. Hervé Charpentier, commander of the French Land Forces, joins Amos in placing a wreath and rendering a salute.

At the ceremony, the two officers talk of what the Americans did at Bois de la Brigade de Marine, or "Wood of the Marine Brigade," and what it meant.

"Their sacrifice for this morsel of French ground sealed in blood the bonds that unite our two countries," whose forces have fought side by side on battlefields since, Charpentier says.

Amos praises an alliance that "continues in the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan, and recently over the skies of Libya as French Rafales and MC Harriers flew in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn."

Though U.S. soldiers outnumber Marines buried at Aisne-Marne, the Marines have a special attachment to the cemetery and the woods beyond. This is where the modern Marine Corps was born – where on June 6, 1918, it lost more men than it had in its entire history up to that point.

On Memorial Day, they are remembered and celebrated. A bugler plays Taps. A French student reads a poem. The Marine Drum & Bugle Corps gives a rousing performance, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon wows the crowd with precision marching and rifle maneuvers.

After the ceremony, hundreds of Marines – from the 5th Regiment, the 6th Regiment, Marine Forces Europe in Stuttgart, Germany, and elsewhere – gather for a reception in the courtyard of a nearby chateau, where they take turns sipping from the famous "devil dog" fountain.

"This is my third visit, and every time I come back I get goose bumps," says Sgt. Maj. Jamie Deets of the 6th Marine Regiment. "In the United States



we're fighting to save our battlefields. Here at Belleau Wood, there's no commercialization, no buildup of housing – a fitting tribute to our Marines and soldiers who gave the ultimate measure here."

Lt. Col. Mark Sojourner, who is stationed at Stuttgart and works for AFRICOM, brought his wife, Lori, and their two daughters over on a USO tour. He calls the trip "a pilgrimage every Marine would like to make."

In Bouresches, a villager ran up to Sojourner with a bottle of wine and old photographs. "He just said 'thank you' over and over, that he loved Marines and appreciated that we're here," he says.

For Mike Miller, director of the Marine Corps archives, Memorial Day capped an incredible week of exploring Belleau Wood for the first time. He spent two days walking the battlefield, sometimes crawling on his hands and knees across ravines.

"You can see fighting holes, shell holes, trenches worn down," he says. "There's an uncomfortable quiet when you're in there. This is nasty terrain."

Years ago, Miller interviewed Gene Lee, who was the battle's last surviving combat veteran when he died at 105. Surrounded by Marine memorabilia, Lee recalled the terror of charging through a wheat field swept by German machine-gun fire. Then he broke down, grieving the buddies he'd lost.

Thinking of Lee, Miller stops at the headstone of every soldier, sailor and Marine in the cemetery to pay his respects. He's touched to see that beside each U.S. flag flies a French flag, placed by local schoolchildren.

"This is something every American should see," he says. 🇺🇸



‘THE GLORY OF THEIR DEEDS’

Isolated burials, private memorials trace American blood spilled in France.

Ray Shearer has been in France only two hours, and already he’s climbing into a church belfry in the village of Bony, trying to make out a 90-year-old inscription on a weathered bronze bell.

“In memory of Lieutenant Alan Mathews,” he reads aloud, translating the French. “Killed in action Aug. 3, 1918.”

From the top of the church, Shearer can see the white marble crosses of the Somme American Cemetery. Among them is a headstone for Mathews, a second lieutenant in the 132nd Infantry and Cornell graduate, killed by shell fire when his regiment joined the front line at Albert.

Unknown to all but a few, Bony’s church bell belongs to an aging group of private memorials, monuments and isolated burials across France that trace American blood spilled in the two world wars.

Shearer visits and photographs as many of these sites as he can squeeze into his trips for the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA), which, with The American Legion’s support, places flags at all known graves of U.S. servicemembers in Europe.

As a trustee and secretary, Shearer attends AOMDA’s annual board meeting and Memorial Day ceremonies at many of the U.S. cemeteries in France. Years ago, he started taking a few extra days to crisscross the country, curious to learn more about the 183 remote burials that receive U.S. flags from AOMDA every spring.

“Over time, fewer people are aware of the sites,” he says. “Nobody could tell me anything about them – who they were, where they were at. So I obtained a list and started going out.”

Stanley Hill of Massachusetts survived a fractured skull when a shell exploded near his ambulance as he was evacuating wounded soldiers near Reims on July 15, 1918. He died of meningitis a month later and is buried in a French military cemetery in La Veuve.

Norman DuBois of New Jersey served as a second lieutenant with the 149th Field Artillery. He was killed in action July 15, 1918, and is buried on the north side of a church in Cuperly.

Richard Banks of New York, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Service, was killed in a truck accident Oct. 30, 1918. He’s buried in Cimetière du Sud in Nancy.

Shearer has been to their graves, and dozens more like them. When a U.S. flag’s out, he’ll spot the headstone right away. Other times, having incomplete or inaccurate information, he’ll ask *le maire* – the mayor – or another local for help.

Inevitably, these conversations alert him to a memorial plaque or monument the next town over. They spark friendships, too – from French citizens to U.S. veterans living there, Shearer is finding allies in his efforts to document and preserve sites honoring America’s wartime contributions in France.



For 15 years, Ray Shearer has been documenting America’s isolated burials, private memorials and monuments in France.

No Small Task. Lillian Pfluke welcomes Shearer’s work.

A retired Army major who graduated in the first class of women at West Point in 1980, she spent a decade at the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) in Paris overseeing private memorials

– basically, anything that isn’t put up by the U.S. government.

ABMC keeps track of, and periodically inspects, assorted statues, plaques, fountains, windows and other markers. Some were gifts to be maintained by their recipients. Others were erected by villages, families or veterans associations. ABMC encourages sponsoring organizations and towns to take care of these, and even allows them to set up a trust fund with ABMC for that purpose. But ABMC doesn’t maintain them.

“It’s not ABMC’s mission to do that, and they don’t really have the money to do that,” Pfluke says. “I made a lot of headway for them, but I realized I was never going to solve the problem within that constraint.”



Second Lt. Norman DuBois of New Jersey served with the 149th Field Artillery, 42nd Division, during World War I. He was killed in action July 15, 1918, and buried on the north side of a church in Cuperly, in France's Champagne-Ardenne region.

She left and started a nonprofit foundation, American War Memorials Overseas (AWMO), to “document, promote and preserve” the nation’s wartime legacy. As of March, its online database had recorded 542 private memorials at 310 sites,

with 3,206 names and 1,105 units.

Learn more about American War Memorials Overseas:



www.uswarmemorials.org

Some are especially distant, including the graves of five

airmen of the U.S. Army Air Corps in Australia, two plaques in New Zealand commemorating the arrival of the 2nd Marine Division following Guadalcanal, and a monument to Task Force Smith at Osan, South Korea. The lion’s share of memorials, though, is in Europe.

“Documenting means finding them all, which is no small task,” says Pfluke, who relies on volunteers

to photograph sites, describe them, and pinpoint their locations for posting on AWMO’s website.

“You can read a book and say, ‘Oh, there’s a plaque in Bastogne,’ but you’ll look a long time for a plaque in Bastogne unless you know exactly where it is. We give GPS coordinates and a good description so people can actually find it.”

Preserving private memorials is a greater challenge. Gen. John J. Pershing said of his generation of fighting Americans, “Time will not dim the glory of their deeds.” Our memories aren’t so fortunate.

In fact, Pershing opposed anything other than official monuments because he feared they’d eventually be neglected, says Peter Herrly, Pfluke’s husband and a retired Army colonel and member of the Legion’s Paris Post 1.

Nevertheless, there are as many as 800 private memorials in France.

“The sources for them are legion,” Herrly says.



At rest abroad

Quentin Roosevelt, the youngest son of President Theodore Roosevelt, served as a pilot in the 95th Aero Squadron. He was shot down July 14, 1918, behind enemy lines and was buried by the Germans. The wreckage of his plane is on display at Chateau Thierry's city hall. After Quentin's death, Theodore Roosevelt wrote, "We have always believed that where the tree falls, there let it lay." This sentiment influenced thousands of American families, who, when given a choice, opted to leave their sons either buried where they fell or interred at one of the eight U.S. cemeteries on foreign soil.



"Maybe it's a village that saw an airplane shot down and rescued somebody. They saw the other crew die and put up a monument to them. Maybe it's an infantry unit, a stone that says, 'To the American soldiers from the state of Pennsylvania who fought and sacrificed here.' Well, it doesn't belong to the Army. Who's going to take care of it? Maybe the state of Pennsylvania will, but they have to know about it.

"Maybe it's a mother of a soldier who was killed, and she comes to France or Belgium or Luxembourg to put up a monument to her son. She convinces the village to let her place it there and then she dies. Again, who's going to take care of it?"

The French have a private association, *Souvenir Français*, to care for their war memorials. Pfluke believes a similar outfit can find long-term maintenance solutions for America's memorials.

Many sites are well cared for by the French, particularly in areas where tourism is a big part of the economy, she says. But other American memorials fall into disrepair as sponsors pass away and personal knowledge about the events disappears. In those cases, AWMO contacts the military unit or local officials to help. Depending on the situation, it may pay for materials and send in volunteers like the Girl Scouts to clean up.

"Often, if we do a renovation, it renews the town's interest in the monument and they jump in to take care of it," Pfluke says.

Sacred Ground. Shearer has a personal connection to World War I. His great-uncle was Maj. Maurice Shearer, who led the 3rd Battalion 5th Marines in the final assault to capture Belleau Wood. On June 26, 1918 – after three weeks of brutal hand-to-hand

combat with the Germans, 1,811 killed and 7,966 wounded – he sent the famous message, "Woods now U.S. Marine Corps entirely."

In 1998, Shearer traveled to France to mark the battle's 80th anniversary, and he returns every year to lay a wreath at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial, down the hill from the forest of the legendary *teufelshunde* – "devil dogs."

He knows the surrounding fields and villages well – Belleau, Torcy, Lucy-le-Bocage, Bouresches. This is where Capt. Lloyd Williams, when advised by a French officer to withdraw, said, "Retreat? Hell, we just got here." Where Gunnery Sgt. Dan Daly, a two-time Medal of Honor recipient before he even got to Europe, shouted, "C'mon, you sons of bitches, you want to live forever?" Where 2nd Lt. Tom Ashley charged a German machine-gun nest, fought until he was shot through both hips and the abdomen, and bled to death under a tree.

In Bouresches, Shearer stops at Café de la Place, a small restaurant owned by friends, Magdalena and Jean Myslinski. Inside, faded photos of crumbling buildings remind residents of how the village was nearly destroyed during the war. And on a bulletin board near the bar hangs a story about Pvt. 1st Class George Dilboy, titled "A Soldier's Tale for Those Who Come to Bouresches."

Dilboy was a Greek immigrant to America who fought at the Mexican border in 1916 and 1917. He rejoined the Army to fight in France, where he was killed when the 103rd Infantry encountered German resistance at Bouresches. After his platoon captured a railroad station, Dilboy was fired upon by a machine gunner. Standing on the track and fully exposed, he fixed his bayonet and ran forward. His right leg was nearly severed above

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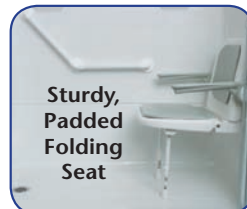
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At rest abroad

the knee, and his body was riddled with bullets, but he continued to fire, killing two of the enemy and dispersing the gun crew. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Magdalena tells Shearer about a new memorial to Dilboy, in the field where he fell on the outskirts of Bouresches. On July 18, 2010 – 91 years after Dilboy's death – villagers joined members of his family in planting an oak tree from his homeland. With Memorial Day approaching, the accompanying plaque is decorated with U.S. and French flags.

Before heading out to see it, Shearer walks through town with Magdalena, who points out walls and roofs that were never repaired after the war. Much of the rebuilding was done using the same stones, she says.

All over Bouresches, more miniature U.S. and French flags wave, including a couple from a street sign bearing the name of Lt. j.g. Weeden Osborne, a Navy dental surgeon and Medal of Honor recipient who was killed in the advance on Bouresches.

Osborne was carrying wounded Marine Capt. Donald Duncan to safety when an artillery shell exploded and killed them both instantly.

In a few days, following the Memorial Day ceremony at Aisne Marne, Café de la Place will host guests from the Marine Corps battalions that distinguished themselves at the Battle of Belleau Wood – the 2/6 out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., and the 3/5 out of Camp Pendleton, Calif. Together, they'll toast their predecessors' bravery and sacrifice.

"It's an honor to have them," Magdalena says.

Hearts and Minds. Just opposite the church in Lucy-le-Bocage is an imposing concrete boulder, about five feet across. On the top is a raised star, with a tarnished marker dated June 1, 1918. The Army's 2nd Division placed 24 of these monuments in France, wherever it saw action.

"This is one of the few that still has a bronze plaque," Shearer says. "We don't know what's happened to the others. Could be collectors over the decades. We're trying to get them replaced."

He was able to do something similar in Ville-Savoie, where 2nd Lt. Edward Graham of the 305th Field Artillery died Aug. 21, 1918. Four days earlier, Graham had been relieved because his eyes were inflamed from mustard gas, but he insisted on returning to duty.

Outside a cave used as a shelter by soldiers, Graham and two other men were killed by an exploding shell. For decades, a bronze plaque marked the spot, but when Shearer finally located the cave, the plaque was gone.

"You could see where it had been," he says. "I got

together with a few people I knew would support something like this, and we had a new plaque made of granite, with one of those ceramic photos people put on headstones now."

Shearer isn't alone in doing restoration work. Near the village of Jaulny, in northeastern France, the above-ground tomb of Capt. Oliver Cunningham has been repaired and the land around it cleared.

A Yale graduate who fought at Chateau

Thierry, Vaux and Belleau Wood, Cunningham was killed by mortar fire on his 24th birthday, Sept. 17, 1918. His comrades of the 15th Field Artillery buried him with military honors where he fell, though he was eventually reinterred at St. Mihiel American Cemetery in Thiaucourt.

When Shearer first looked for Cunningham's tomb, he came up empty, walking within 20 yards of it and turning around when he saw high weeds and downed trees. Making the search more difficult were old instructions that located it 500 meters from the village cemetery. "That could be anywhere," he says.

Shearer then realized that the wooded area had been a field, and tried again. He found the tomb, but it was cracked, and the marble tablets on top were in pieces. Since then, a local group – the Association Lorraine d'Histoire Militaire Contemporaine – has done a complete renovation.

"The mortar has been patched, the tablets have been replaced, and there's a placard on the front," he says. "It looks fabulous. It's a perfect example



Soldiers of the 2nd Division set up 24 concrete boulders across France to mark where they fought during the first world war. Only a few have the original bronze plaques.

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At rest abroad



On Sept. 17, 1918, Capt. Oliver Cunningham of the 15th Artillery, 2nd Division, was killed by a shell explosion near Jaulny, France. He is buried at St. Mihiel American Cemetery, but Cunningham's original tomb marks the spot where he died. His family gave three bells to the church in Thiaucourt in his memory.

of the efforts made by many people in France to maintain our memorials.”

Some are even building new ones. Jocelyne Papelard loves the United States. She came to the country on a Fulbright scholarship, married an American and became a U.S. citizen. After moving back to France, she joined AOMDA's board, and she takes local schoolchildren to place flowers on soldiers' graves at Epinal American Cemetery for Memorial Day.

Last year, Papelard invited veterans of the 3rd Infantry Division to help inaugurate a monument honoring 18 U.S. soldiers who died to liberate her village of Luxeuil les Bains in 1944. This summer, Army officials from Germany will dedicate a stele for 1st Lt. Robert Booth of the 405th Fighter Squadron, who crashed in the Vosges while trying to deliver relief supplies to the 36th Infantry Division's "Lost Battalion" on Oct. 27, 1944. Both monuments were donated by a Frenchman.

"It isn't important who organizes these ceremonies," Papelard says. "It's that they take place. Not only do we have to keep the memory alive ourselves, we must nurture it in the hearts and minds of our young."

That seems to be the sentiment at Shearer's next two stops, which are also World War II sites. At Perreuil, in eastern France, he pulls over to see a memorial stone for flight officer Leroy Saunders, who died Sept. 4, 1944, when his P-47 Thunderbolt

crashed during an armed reconnaissance mission. Saunders stayed with the plane to make sure it didn't hit the village, and until his remains were moved to Epinal, the people of Perreuil guarded his grave. Today, they fly the U.S. flag over his memorial.

In Plottes, Shearer looks around for a plaque on the wall of a small house. He finds it at the town square. This is where the bodies of three crewmembers and six passengers were brought after their B-26 crashed in the woods Nov. 13, 1944. Despite fog warnings, Lt. Richard Hisey flew on toward Longvic, the new home of the 320th Bomb Group. When he descended, trying to find the Saône River, the plane flew into a hillside and burst into flames. The townspeople never forgot, and on the 60th anniversary of the crash, they welcomed relatives of the bomb crew for a memorial celebration, parade and laying of flowers.

Back on the road – somewhere in Allerey is the grave of Pvt. Paul Burton, the first American to die at the camp hospital there in 1918 – Shearer considers what to do with all the information he's collecting. He'd like to share it in some way with Americans who want to personally trace the U.S. military's legacy in Europe.

"It's safe to say that wherever you go in France, you're probably within an hour of an isolated burial or private memorial," he says. "Take the time to visit a site." 🌿



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PARTNERS IN REMEMBRANCE

The Legion, American Overseas Memorial Day Association share ancestry.

The Americans who won the first world war grew up decorating the graves of Civil War dead.

Leaving Europe for home, they trusted others to do the same for their 78,000 comrades resting eternally beneath white wooden crosses blanketing the French and Belgian countryside.

"It is the first Memorial Day in the blood-ground of the old A.E.F. without the A.E.F.," wrote J.W. Rixey Smith in the May 28, 1920, *American Legion Weekly*. "The actual presence of tribute and ceremony to American dead abroad must be left to American agencies in Europe, to the Allied governments and to the folk among whom they are buried."

A Memorial Day committee led by Hugh Wallace, U.S. ambassador to France, and Lt. Col. Francis Drake, commander of the Legion's Department of France and founder of Paris Post 1, planned a grand observance across the continent. Tribute would be paid from Romagne in the Argonne, where 22,000 soldiers were buried, to Lille, where three sailors had been laid to rest.

"No American field of honor on the other side will be without its Memorial Day ceremony, no American grave without its flag and its flowers," Smith reported.

Drake and the Rev. F.W. Beekman, an Army chaplain and dean of the American Cathedral in Paris, raised funds through newspaper appeals and by asking Legion posts in the United States, Americans living in France and soldiers along the Rhine to contribute to the proper decoration of graves. French citizens, who wanted to take part in the ceremonies, gave unsolicited donations.

Few occasions have been as poignant, or as unifying. At Thiaucourt, U.S. and French soldiers watched farmers and their families weep for the Americans who died to free their towns. On the edge of Belleau Wood, a detachment of Marines helped the people of Torcy and Belleau spread red poppies, white daisies and blue cornflowers on graves. At Romagne, the mayor and priest marched before a wreath so large it required 23 men to carry it, while schoolchildren linked every cross with a chain of daisies and sang hymns.

Within two years, the bodies of 46,284 American servicemen were returned to the United States, at their families' request. Another 30,921 from World War I will forever remain in U.S. cemeteries overseas, where the heirs to Drake's Memorial Day committee are faithful to place a flag at every one of their headstones every May.



The American Legion's founders believed they had a responsibility to decorate the graves of the nation's overseas war dead.

TERY • 1920

Shared Roots. In 1923, the Paris Memorial Day Committee voted to change its name to the American Overseas Memorial Day Association (AOMDA). Participating organizations included the Legion, the American Graves Registration Service, the American Chamber of Commerce, the American Red Cross, the American Club, the American hospital, the American University Union, Franco-American Welfare, the Knights of Columbus and the YMCA.

“The Legion essentially started AOMDA,” says Ray Shearer, a Marine Corps veteran and Legionnaire who has served on the association’s board of trustees since 2000. “The same group that formed Paris Post 1 was instrumental in establishing the association.”

HOW TO JOIN AOMDA

Yearly membership dues for AOMDA are \$50 or 50 euros. Life memberships are \$500 or 500 euros. Request a membership application or download the form online.

 www.aomda.com

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AOMDA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions, including membership, are tax-deductible in the United States and France. Donations, grants and bequests in any amount are welcome.

Herman Harjes, an American banker who joined the Army and became Gen. John “Black Jack” Pershing’s liaison to the French, served as Post 1’s first commander. A.W. Kipling, an Army captain who supervised the evacuation of American wounded from the battlefield to Paris hospitals, was post adjutant. Cabot Ward, in charge of counterintelligence at St. Mihiel, was vice commander. Nelson Jay, another banker who worked for Pershing, was a founding member of the post.

All served on AOMDA’s board under the leadership of Drake and Beekman, Post 1’s chaplain. Acting primarily as Legionnaires, they arranged Memorial Day ceremonies, sent delegations from the post to cemeteries outside Paris and, by 1923, raised over a million francs from the Legion and the public to help cover the costs of graves decoration.

Recognizing that the income from that fund wasn’t enough to meet each year’s need, Drake asked the Legion to establish a permanent endowment. A two-month campaign succeeded in raising \$161,500. Interest generated by the Overseas Graves Decoration Trust fund today purchases all U.S. flags placed at the graves of America’s war dead in Europe. Since 2007 alone, the Legion has provided nearly 63,000 flags.

Even in 1940, when Americans were fleeing Paris and all the cemeteries except Suresnes were in German hands or on the battlefield, the Legion and AOMDA commemorated Memorial Day by placing marble crosses and poppy wreaths – one for each site – at the altar of the American Cathedral.



At rest abroad

After World War II, the American Battle Monuments Committee (ABMC) added 13 cemeteries in Europe, bringing the total to 21. AOMDA coordinates graves decoration and Memorial Day ceremonies at all of them – 11 in France, three in Belgium, two in England, two in Italy, one in Luxembourg, one in Holland and one in Tunisia.

AOMDA also arranges for the decoration of individual isolated burials, supplying U.S. flags for 183 sites in France, eight in Belgium, and others in Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. In anticipation of Memorial Day, volunteers gather in Paris every January to mail fresh flags to local officials, families, Legion posts, civic groups and U.S. embassies assuming responsibility for graves.

At the cemeteries, AOMDA and ABMC staff work with neighboring towns and villages to make certain that Old Glory graces every headstone.

“It’s phenomenal,” Shearer says. “The day before the ceremony, local schoolchildren and their parents come out and place our flags at our guys’ graves. The Aisne-Marne cemetery has 2,289 burials, and they’ll have all the flags placed in a couple of hours. Normandy has 9,387. The Lorraine cemetery has 10,489. The Meuse-Argonne, the biggest one in Europe and the biggest of World War I, has 14,246. Every one gets a flag placed at it.”

“Long After We’re Gone.” Like a lot of groups born in the aftermath of the world wars, AOMDA is facing a steep membership decline. With fewer U.S. veterans living in France, there are fewer people and resources to support AOMDA’s mission.

James Gerard, a New York investment manager and AOMDA’s treasurer, says the association lives on “a shoestring budget of about \$20,000,” including a \$5,000 grant from the Legion that supports Memorial Day ceremonies in Europe. That falls short of the \$25,000 – and rising – cost of Memorial Day ceremonies in France alone.

In March, AOMDA voted to create a permanent endowment to fund all Memorial Day activities at U.S. overseas cemeteries. Gerard figures that if even 3 million of the 24 million living U.S. veterans each contributed a dollar, AOMDA would be able to support Memorial Day ceremonies “long after we’re gone.”

These events are worthy of the dead they honor. In 2011, thousands congregated at American cemeteries across France to hear military bands play “La Marseillaise” and “The Star-Spangled Banner,” and U.S. and French officers reflected on their nations’ history of shared sacrifice dating



Ray Shearer, left, and James Gerard carry on AOMDA’s mission to observe Memorial Day at U.S. cemeteries overseas.

back to the Revolutionary War. In Belgium, four A-10 Thunderbolts out of Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany flew over a crowd gathered at the Ardennes cemetery, U.S. and Belgian troops paraded their nations’ colors at Henri-Chapelle, and a student from the Brussels American School recited John McCrae’s famous poem at Flanders Field. At Cambridge American Cemetery in England, dignitaries, military personnel and veterans laid more than 120 wreaths.

For 25 years, Gerard has presided over ceremonies at the Somme American Cemetery in Bony, France. His father – a brigadier general who served in World War II and the Korean War – did so from 1964 to 1986.

“The mayors of these towns throw open their doors on Memorial Day,” Gerard says. “They really want to show their thanks. There’s always a toast to French-American cooperation and friendship after every ceremony. It’s a very moving day. If more Americans saw it, they’d say, ‘Wow.’”

He and Shearer plan to boost AOMDA’s profile with a more interactive website that tells the stories of isolated war graves overseas. They’re also reaching out to military unit associations and veterans groups – Legionnaires, in particular, whose founders vowed that on one day each year, for all time, the graves of their comrades would be decorated and their sacrifices acknowledged.

“The people of AOMDA do this as a labor of love,” Gerard says. “It’s up to people like Ray and me to pick up the torch and carry it forward. We are the ones who are going to make sure these soldiers are remembered.” 🌿

Matt Grills is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.



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THE AMERICAN LEGION ONLINE UNIVERSE

Join the community at www.legion.org

Enter The American Legion's online universe at the National Headquarters website, www.legion.org. From there, you can head dozens of directions: pages dedicated to specific programs and services, Facebook, the Burn Pit blog site, a dedicated YouTube channel, a calendar of veteran career events, directories to find service officers, posts and Legion Riders chapters, and links to department and post sites. At www.legion.org, you can vote in the popular Big Q poll, dig into history through the Moment in Time module, read selected magazine articles, keep up with daily Legion headlines, take a virtual tour of the Emil Blackmore Museum, search for resolutions and other documents in The American Legion Digital Archives, and manage your membership on the secure mylegion.org platform.

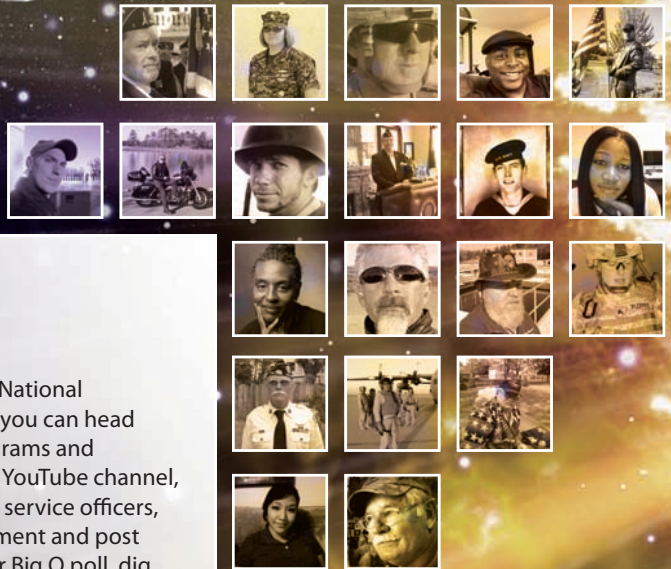
Hundreds of visitors to the Legion's online universe have closed the distance between one another by becoming registered users. These users can find one another in the Legion's growing online community, upload photos and list their Legion interests, as well as post comments about articles, videos and issues of interest. Registration is fast, easy, free and does not require membership.

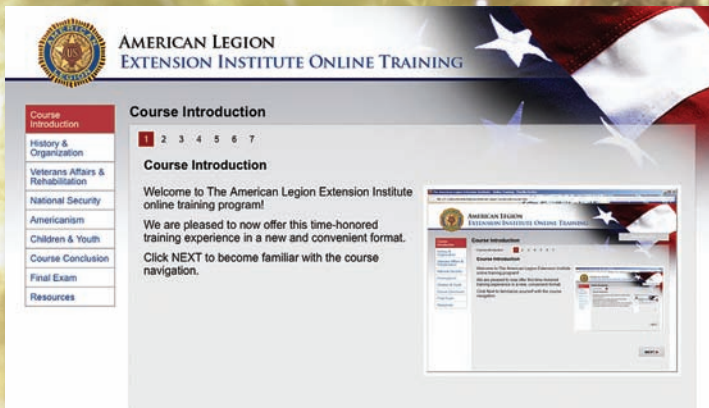
 www.legion.org/community

Facebook family

The American Legion's place on Facebook continues to grow. The flagship of the fleet is the *American Legion Online Update* Facebook page, with nearly 25,000 friends. Facebook pages have also been created to keep visitors informed about the 94th National Convention in Indianapolis, the Burn Pit blog, the U.S. flag, the American Legion Baseball World Series and Sons of The American Legion. Check out the National Headquarters family of Facebook pages.

 www.legion.org/facebook





Take the American Legion Extension Institute online training course

American Legion members, officers, friends and staff who seek a comprehensive, concise understanding of the organization, its history, values and ways in which they can participate at the local, state and national levels have a new online education tool. The American Legion Extension Institute is now offered on the Web.

The program includes a timeline of significant Legion events and milestones through history, videos, photos, and other information vital for those who seek leadership positions. The course also enlightens those who simply want to know more about the nation's largest veterans service organization. Completion of the online course is a prerequisite for enrollment in Legion College at National Headquarters.

Graduates of the Extension Institute will receive certificates of completion, pins and a clear understanding of all the ways in which they can apply the organization's values at every level. Each chapter in the course is followed by a quiz. Once the user finishes a quiz, another new chapter is accessible, until the course is successfully completed.

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Spread the e-news

The American Legion's family of e-newsletters is expanding. A new Veterans Career Center e-newsletter – which includes a national calendar of coming veteran career events, as well as news about jobs, business and economic opportunities – is the latest addition. It joins *The American Legion Online Update* e-newsletter, which now has more than 360,000 weekly subscribers, *The Dugout* e-newsletter that focuses on American Legion Baseball, and *Flag Alert*, which provides current information about Old Glory and the reasons it is flown at half-staff on specific dates.

Subscribe to any American Legion e-newsletter online:

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ROAD TO NOWHERE

Returning veterans face the worst job market of their lives.

BY KEN OLSEN

Kai Jorgensen was laid off just before Thanksgiving 2011, the third time the recession has cost him his job since he left the Marine Corps in May 2009. He wasn't prepared for such a cold reception from the civilian world after four years of keeping troops on the front lines supplied with gear and working as a ground safety officer.

"I didn't expect this at all, especially coming out in the field of logistics," says Jorgensen, 25, a Beaverton, Ore., native who has applied for hundreds of jobs. "I'm very discouraged."

Yet the fact that Jorgensen has found any employment – even minimum-wage work – makes him one of the more fortunate returning servicemembers. The job hunt has been even more difficult for Oregon Army National Guardsmen like Shad Vaughn. Half of the soldiers in Vaughn's company didn't have jobs when they came home in April 2010 after a yearlong deployment to Iraq, he says.

Vaughn's family has lived off credit cards and hardship grants – and his children are on state assistance – while he looks for work and fights to

get medical care for injuries he sustained when an 850-pound armored-vehicle tire fell on him three weeks before he left Iraq. "For guys who have not been hurt, it's hard," Vaughn says of the job search. "For guys who are hurt, it's ridiculous."

The men and women who have served since 9/11 have the highest unemployment rate among their peers, according to a 2011 congressional study. The magnitude of the problem is often understated, because the most commonly cited government numbers don't tell the whole story. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is often quoted as estimating unemployment among returning veterans 18 to 24 at about the same level as nonveterans in that age group.



Illustration by Tim Hildebrandt

But Bloomberg News dug deeper into the government data and found a far grimmer picture. Veterans 18 to 24 had a 30.4-percent jobless rate as of October 2011, about double the unemployment rate of nonveterans in the same age range. That's also a significant jump from the October 2010 unemployment rate of 18.4 percent among the youngest veterans, Bloomberg reported. Black veterans 18 to 24 were faring the worst, with a 48-percent jobless rate.

Fleeting Success. Jorgensen's initial return to civilian life was more promising. He found work as a loss-prevention agent for a major department store soon after leaving the Marines but was laid off a year later. "Since then, it's been real hectic and hard," he says.

He found a no-benefits job driving a delivery truck in September 2010 but was laid off right after Christmas that same year. He turned to a minimum-wage job at a golf course and enrolled in college. Although he was told there was room for growth, Jorgensen soon discovered that people with four years at the golf course were only making an additional 50 cents an hour. "I decided to continue school without that distraction," Jorgensen says. The decision came after he realized that he was barely earning enough to pay for his gas to drive to work. "A lot of us who spent four years on active duty don't have a college degree, although when I read the requirements, I know I can do a lot of the jobs (that call for a degree)."

His luck appeared to turn in September 2011, when he found a job as a delivery driver and

warehouse specialist. That ended shortly before Thanksgiving because the company lost a major contract due to government cutbacks.

"It's gotten to the point I'm applying for jobs all over the country," Jorgensen says.

Vaughn doesn't have that option. A .50-caliber gunner and mechanic, his six-year hitch with the National Guard runs until 2015. Meanwhile, in addition to looking for work, he is focused on some missing paperwork that's made it nearly impossible for him to get treatment for back, neck, shoulder and other injuries he suffered when a tire fell 14 feet from a forklift and knocked him unconscious near the end of his tour in Iraq.

The Army put him on light duty and told him to wait to seek treatment until he got home, Vaughn says. Once his unit returned to the United States, he went to VA, where his claim has been stalled because of the missing paperwork, he says. His primary-care physician, meanwhile, dismissed his complaints of neck pain without obtaining a CT scan that would later show fractured vertebrae.

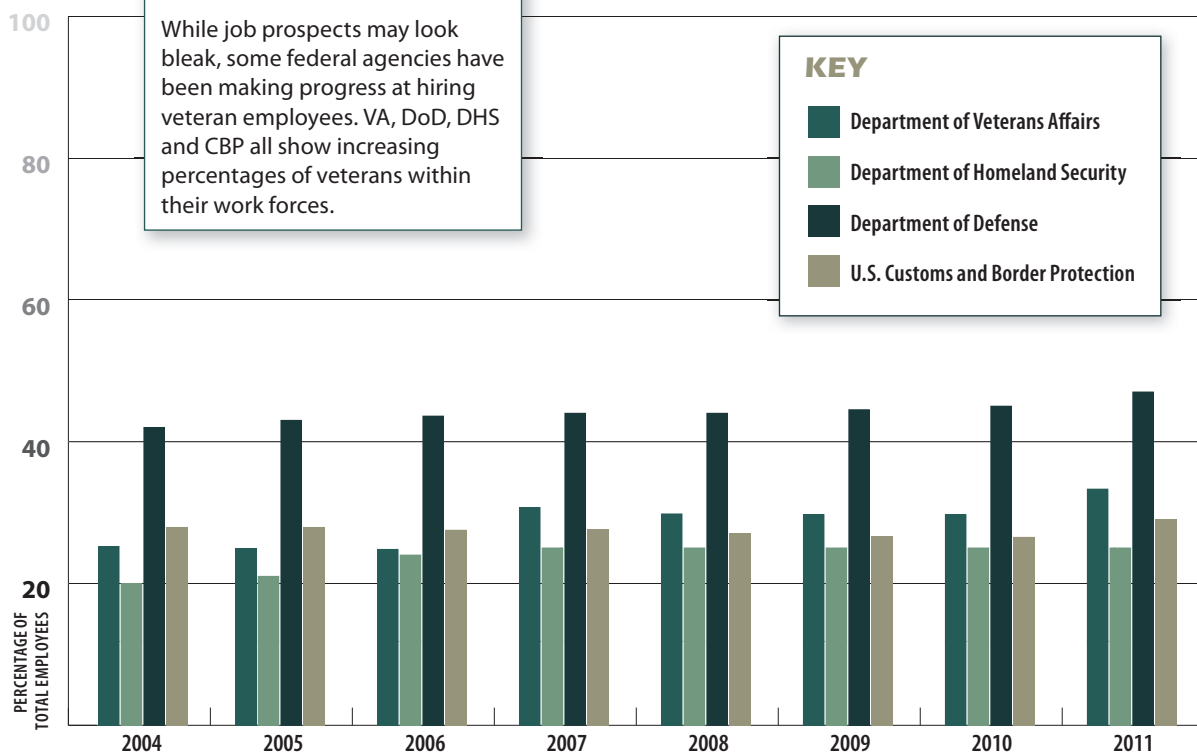
"We've been fighting tooth and nail to get records of my injuries the last two years," Vaughn says. "It's been rough, especially for my wife and two kids. The sad thing is, I know there are a lot of guys out there with the same problems, but they don't want to get involved in it. I can't give up because I've got so much invested in it."

American Legion service officer Gregory Demarais became aware of Vaughn's case in early December and worked to push forward his VA disability claim. Demarais also secured temporary financial assistance through the Legion to help pay Vaughn's rent, and obtained donations for



A silver lining

While job prospects may look bleak, some federal agencies have been making progress at hiring veteran employees. VA, DoD, DHS and CBP all show increasing percentages of veterans within their work forces.



Sources: VA, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Christmas presents for Vaughn's family through The Salvation Army, American Legion Post 122, the American Legion Auxiliary and VA employees. This is nothing out of the ordinary for Demarais. He distributed \$19,000 in emergency funding to unemployed Oregon veterans in the first 10 days of that month alone.

National Attention. Meanwhile, there are efforts in Washington to deal with the problem. The Legion and other organizations successfully pushed Congress to pass the Hire Heroes Act late last fall. The legislation gives private businesses up to \$5,600 in tax credits for hiring unemployed veterans, and as much as \$9,600 to businesses that hire unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities.

The Obama administration has also increased the number of veterans working for the federal government, despite an overall hiring decrease. The Defense Department, VA and the Department of Homeland Security employ the most veterans of any federal agencies. In late February, the U.S. Department of Agriculture signed a memorandum of understanding with The American Legion to launch a nationwide veteran-hiring initiative that aims to employ veterans in rural areas. VA has increased its veteran-employee numbers from 59,563 in fiscal 2004 to 101,651 in fiscal 2011.

Veterans now make up about 29 percent of the work force at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), an arm of Homeland Security. CBP added more than 800 veteran employees each of the last two years alone with an aggressive recruiting program, says Judy Hatter, who oversees veteran recruiting for the agency. That includes more than 340 job fairs and other events aimed at attracting applicants with military experience.

USAJOBS, an online application program that is mandatory for most federal jobs, is notoriously confusing and time-consuming, according to many government job seekers. CBP sets up laptop computers at job fairs and walks veterans through the process. The Department of Homeland Security has also established a Warrior Transition Program that allows it to bypass USAJOBS and hire qualified veterans for some positions. The USDA initiative also envisions a more streamlined application process for veterans seeking particular jobs.

Doug Peters, a Marine Corps veteran who participated in the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, found a home at CBP last September. His advice to veterans: "Make every effort to go to school, even if it's part-time, even if you have to work a job and take night classes."

Peters' experience, however, demonstrates that education alone isn't enough. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and a law degree after



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leaving the Marines in 2003. Even then, it took him 18 months and hundreds of applications to find a job after he graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in May 2010.

"I was really having a difficult time even getting people to call me back," says Peters, 32, now a labor and employee relations specialist with CBP in Washington. His break came when a representative from Naval District Washington's Wounded Warrior Employment Program forwarded his résumé to CBP.

Combat Experience Wanted. Customs and Border Protection isn't the only place where veterans are valued. West Coast-based private employer Vigor Industrial hires veterans because the ship-repair company values their technical skills as well as their ability to think quickly, ask questions and make suggestions.

"Veterans, especially people who have experienced combat training or combat, are well suited for ship repair," says Daava Mills, a corporate recruiter for Vigor. "Things turn on a dime."

The company does short-notice ship repair for everyone from oceangoing cargo companies to the U.S. Navy. That can mean showing up at 2 a.m. to get a ship in dry dock. "We have to make our deadlines, or companies have to rent ships," Mills says.

The company's employees range from Vietnam War veterans to men and women who recently returned from serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. They hold jobs from general labor to director of operations. Even the laborer jobs are not typical, Mills says. Workers have to be able to read blueprints and perform other technical tasks, such as figuring out how to safely block up a ship in dry dock. Veterans often have these skills.

Many of the veterans working at Vigor were Navy or Air Force avionics and electrical specialists. Because they are doing maritime electrical work, they are not required to get additional state licenses to work for Vigor. That's an important advantage for veterans, who often find that employers don't recognize their military licenses because of state and federal regulations.

Mills personally understands the challenges veterans face finding work. Her father struggled to find meaningful employment after 24 years in the Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam.

"He went from planning missions and planning wars to packing boxes, so I have an appreciation for what these guys go through," Mills says.

"Unfortunately, we aren't in a position to hire all of the guys and girls who come home."

Older veterans are also struggling. Tony Hoffman has applied for jobs with VA in Florida and Indiana for more than a decade, and he's only landed one interview. Instead of a job, he says, VA offered him a volunteer position passing out magazines and pencils.

"I go up there every time there's an opening," says Hoffman, who served as a licensed practical nurse in the Army from 1984 to 1991. "I have an Expert Field Medical Badge. I ran a clinic in the Army for two and a half years. They said they didn't understand all of that. I can qualify to work as a janitor, but not as a nurse who can start IVs and has skills above and beyond the average LPN. It's disheartening."

Hoffman worries about the hurdles facing job-seeking veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. "There's going to be a whole lot of medics coming home soon," he says. "I think the young guys are going to get discouraged."

Robert Randy has been so dismayed by his job searches that he's considered leaving his four years with the Marine Corps off his résumé to see if it makes a difference. He earned a degree in international business after getting out of the service in 1990, and worked at a variety of companies until opening three cellular telephone retail stores in San Diego. Two of the stores went out of business after the economy soured. He sold the third after his wife landed a job in Oregon in 2007. He hasn't been able to find a job since, even after applying for work as a state and county veterans service representative.

"I don't know what I am going to do from here," Randy says. "I want to work. I need to be able to work for my health."

Veterans like Vaughn and Jorgensen also find it difficult to be optimistic. "It's been one battle after another from every which way," Vaughn says. "There's no reason for the guys coming back to get this much crap."

Jorgensen just wants the opportunity to get beyond the typical computer application process to sell himself in person.

"You want to come back, help your community, get an education, start a family," Jorgensen says. "For me, it would be great just being able to get into the interview process. I think if I could just get face to face with employers, I could get a job." 🌿

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.



The MOST DANGEROUS room in your home... the bathroom

According to The New York Times, the bathroom can be the most dangerous room in the home. Hundreds of thousands of falls and accidents happen each year.*

FACT: 1 in 3 adults 65+ fall each year, and falls are the leading cause of injury death as well as the most common cause of nonfatal injuries and hospital admissions for trauma.**

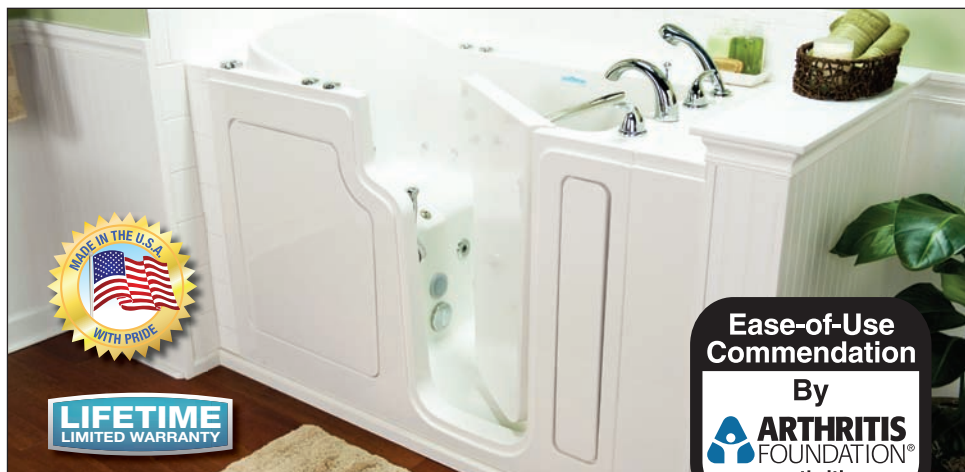
*BAKALAR, NICHOLAS. "Watch Your Step While Washing Up." New York Times 16, Aug. 2011, New York Edition ed., Section D sec.: D7. Web

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A Quarter Century of Thunder

A feisty group of veterans known for their antics in Washington spawned what has become the nation's largest event to honor POWs and MIAs.

BY CRAIG ROBERTS

Nobody on Capitol Hill paid much attention to John “Top” Holland until he changed his wardrobe. In his earliest days of lobbying, when the Vietnam generation was young, a gentleman would never visit a place or person of importance dressed in anything other than a well-pressed business suit.

And so it was that Holland, a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, climbed Capitol Hill in his Sunday best to deliver his message to Congress. To hear his friend Walt Sides tell it, Holland blended right into the halls of Congress – in fact, a little too well, he finally decided.

To get anyone’s attention, Holland needed an image change. He went for an almost sinister-looking combination of militaria and Harley Davidson leathers, apparel he and his friends felt most comfortable wearing. It paid off. Dressed as they were, they began getting more and more attention when pleading with lawmakers to address what they viewed as official neglect of POW/MIA issues.

The biker garb wasn’t a gimmick, but normal weekend attire for Holland, Sides, retired Marine Cpl. Ray Manzo and Ted Sampley – co-founders of Rolling Thunder, which has grown into the massive annual “Run to the Wall” motorcycle procession in Washington. This Memorial Day, Rolling Thunder celebrates its 25th anniversary, and The American Legion is an official sponsor.



Holland, a Legionnaire, was born in 1927. He left his family's farm in southern Indiana just before his 15th birthday, a month after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. He lied about his age to a Marine Corps recruiter and got in. He was in the Marines for the duration of World War II, then joined the Army in 1947. He saw action in Korea and later with the Special Forces in Vietnam, pulling four tours as one of the original Green Berets. He retired from the service in 1970, but took up the POW/MIA cause with a vengeance. It would be his calling for the rest of his life.

Prior to Holland's funeral in July 2010, Rolling Thunder colleague Danny "Greasy" Belcher wrote on various websites, "EVERYONE with a POW/MIA patch or who claims to care about the POW/MIA issue should attend John's funeral. He was the first to get the POW/MIA issue moving by trying to change the 1942 Missing Service Personnel Act, which let a POW/MIA be declared dead after one year ... John Holland was the one who got us off our complaining asses and calling and visiting our congressmen and senators ... He made us accountable for our fellow abandoned Americans and showed us that we could do something besides complain."

Manzo, the man credited with actually conceiving the now-famous motorcycle run, was not much different. Sides recalls that the idea was first advanced by Manzo on a "nice, warm, sunny day in June 1987" on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Sides and Holland were sitting there, thinking back on their years in the service, when they were approached by fellow vet Bob Schmidt, who was leading a stranger, Manzo.

"Ray come walkin' up there with Bob, and Ray said he wanted to do a motorcycle run, and we talked about it a few minutes. John said, 'Whaddya think?' And I said, 'Man, I don't know.' So that's how it started."

Despite doubts about the run's viability, the veterans went to work on the National Park Service and local authorities to gain permission for a motorcycle parade. Initially, public-safety officials resisted the idea of a horde of leather-clad bikers invading the broad avenues and green expanses of the capital. "They didn't wanna hear 'boom,'" Sides says.

Sampley, a former Green Beret, has a history of activism on behalf of Vietnam War veterans dating to the early 1980s. His public demonstrations for the POW/MIA cause were legendary. He once chained himself to the White House gates, waged highly charged public attacks on Sens. John McCain and John Kerry, displayed bamboo cages housing mock POWs, and spent more than one night behind bars himself for his actions.

In 1994, Sampley – to make a point about the importance of identifying MIAs – announced his belief that the remains in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery were not unknown at all. After much research, he concluded that the allegedly anonymous warrior sealed in the tomb was actually an Air Force pilot reported as MIA: Lt. Michael Blassie, who had been shot down in 1972. The theory was confirmed by DNA analysis in 1998. Sampley died in 2009 at 62. Blassie's sister gave a eulogy at the funeral.

In 1956, at 16, Walt Sides joined the Marines after "getting in a little trouble." Like Holland a decade and a half before, Sides lied about his age to get in. After his hitch, he took advantage of the GI Bill and enrolled at the University of Oklahoma, where he played football. There, he explains, he soon found himself "in a little more trouble" and headed back to the Marines. This time, he stayed in for 21 years.

Sides worked as a sniper-scout platoon leader in Vietnam. After retiring from the service, he took up the POW/MIA cause and remains vocal about the issue today.

"We know damn well there's people left over there," he says. "There's over 1,200 still not accounted for. We just bought our way back in North Korea, and they just brought remains out of there ... In 2010, I think, we brought out 19 and in 2011 we brought out 22. There's still people over there."

Sides concedes that there is little chance any vanished warriors from Korea or Vietnam are still alive. But the Rolling Thunder Run to the Wall



Veterans salute during Taps after placing a plaque at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. AP

grows each year, raising awareness about those whose fates remain unknown.

In 1988, with a turnout of about 2,500 bikes, Rolling Thunder was born. This year, the event is expected to attract approximately 1 million people – bikers and spectators alike – for the annual procession from the Pentagon’s parking lot to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In recent years, the Run to the Wall has become something of a national sensation. Those who cannot participate say they follow the run online and in social media. A YouTube video of Marine Staff Sgt. Tim Chambers – known as “the lone Marine” – saluting Rolling Thunder riders

during the 2011 run has been viewed more than 2.7 million times.

The event has now outlived many of those who created it. In a sense, that was their mission: to create greater awareness of missing servicemembers for as long as they remain unaccounted for.

Sides, now 72, says he never really thought about how long the ride would last. “After about eight (years), I knew that we weren’t going to quit, and we’ve been kind of hustling along ever since. It’s been a great run – a really great run.” 🇺🇸

Craig Roberts is a multimedia specialist for The American Legion.

American Legion Riders to posse up for Run to the Wall

For the first time in Rolling Thunder’s 25-year history, a large contingent of American Legion Riders will join the parade on Memorial Day. As many as 500 biking Legionnaires are expected to meet in the Washington area to join the annual Run to the Wall, starting at the Pentagon and proceeding to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Nick Nicholas, treasurer at Fairfax, Va., Post 177, says the idea came from a group of Treasure Island, Fla., Legion Riders at last year’s run. “They asked, ‘Why don’t we ride as a group?’” Nicholas says. “A lot of guys had thought of that, so we decided to try to make it happen.”

Nicholas, a West Point graduate and civilian Pentagon worker, put together a 12-member committee to plan a rally. Brad Watkins, Post 177’s first vice commander, assisted in coordinating the planned Legion Riders ride-in.

“John Sommer and Bob Spanogle really helped with the effort, too,” Nicholas says. “They gave terrific support.”

Rolling Thunder has been close to Harley aficionado Sommer’s heart since its founding. As a decorated Vietnam War combat medic, he made the POW/MIA issue one of his signature causes during his long tenure at the Legion. Sommer spent 35 years at the Legion’s D.C. headquarters, starting as a claims representative and eventually serving as executive director. He has traveled to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos several times to promote the POW/MIA cause.

Spanogle, a past national commander and past national adjutant, is no stranger to Rolling Thunder and the Legion Riders, either. His enthusiasm and encouragement played a big part in the Legion’s decision to be an official sponsor of the 2012 run.

Spanogle says he’s noticed an increase in younger riders participating in veterans’ motorcycle rallies.

“Vietnam veterans, who now make up most of our membership and leadership, made up their minds that the new generation of soldiers, from the Persian Gulf on, would not have happen to them what happened to us,” he says.



American Legion photo

Past National Commander Robert Spanogle and former executive director John Sommer, above, encouraged the Legion to sponsor the 25th anniversary of Rolling Thunder.

“The youngest riders today are riding alongside Vietnam vets, and they love it. I don’t see a real generation gap. In my experience, vets want to serve their fellow vets. They have a cause bigger than themselves.”

Several American Legion posts in the D.C. area will serve as meeting points for Legion Riders planning to join the herd, Nicholas says. His Fairfax post will host an open house the day before the Rolling Thunder run, with patch sewing, bike detailing, maintenance and other vendors.

“We’ll have a barbecue in the afternoon, and we’ve designed a unique patch and pin to commemorate the event, which we will be selling,” he says.

Any money raised by the Legion Riders during Rolling Thunder weekend will be donated to The American Legion Legacy Run in August.

Read about custom-made military bikes that will be displayed at Rolling Thunder:

🌐 www.legion.org/magazine

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Tim Chambers

Staff sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps

Chambers is called the “Lone Marine” for his hours-long salute to motorcycle-riding veterans during the annual Rolling Thunder run in Washington. On 9/11, Chambers was at the Pentagon and spent three days bringing out the dead and injured. He has received numerous awards for his volunteer service, and seeks to improve the quality of life of youth, the less fortunate and veterans “through mentoring, compassion and education.” He is currently writing a book about what his salute has meant to veterans.

 **Watch a video of Chambers’ salute at YouTube. Search “Rolling Thunder – A Marine’s Vigil.”**



U.S. Marine Corps photos

“Patriotism can be found on every street corner if you look for any simple act of compassion one American does for another.

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WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

Legionnaires take transition-assistance concerns to D.C.



American Legion photos

The American Legion delivered to Congress and the White House a strong message of transition support for veterans and troops coming home from war, during the 52nd Washington Conference in February.

Legionnaires poured into the nation's capital to meet with lawmakers, department officials and, in the case of National Commander Fang A. Wong, President Barack Obama in the Oval Office, to share their concerns about caring for veterans in a time of serious fiscal strain.

"Our nation's military and veterans are facing a number of challenges, now and in the coming years," Wong told Legionnaires. "It is your job to let your members of Congress know ... and fight for what is right for those who have served this country."

Legionnaires then took to Capitol Hill to discuss the issues. The conference also included a job fair, licensing and credentialing summit, business workshop, homeless veterans roundtable, commission meetings and other events.

Here are just some of the voices from this year's Washington Conference.

"There are lots of good reasons for this, apart from the fact that the country owes a debt to these folks."

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, after signing a memorandum of understanding between USDA and the Legion to kick off a nationwide veteran-hiring campaign



"Sustainability is key."

Deirdre White-Randall, small-business specialist and program analyst with the Government Services Administration (GSA), speaking at the Legion's Small Business Development Workshop, which covered how veterans can keep business with the federal government once they get it

"When you all came back, I didn't spit on you. But we did not recognize your heroism. We did not recognize the sacrifice. We did not recognize, as a nation, the price that you all paid. I have learned about that, and it has affected everything I do every day in Congress."

Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., Vietnam War protester who later became House Veterans Affairs Committee chairman, after receiving the Legion's Distinguished Public Service Award for his efforts to keep VA health care and benefits well-funded

"I think The American Legion and the Office of Servicemember Affairs have a lot in common. We're both focused on increasing protections for servicemembers, veterans and their families."

Holly Petraeus, assistant director for servicemember affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), speaking during the Commander's Call on the role her office plays in educating active-duty personnel, veterans and their families on financial literacy and self-protection



"It's important for us to find solutions, and I think we have some good ones coming ... with lots of great help from you."

Allison Hickey, undersecretary for benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), speaking on efforts to reduce VA's backlog of undecided benefits claims

"Eliminating this problem takes a collaborative effort, mostly at the local level."

Pete Dougherty, VA representative, speaking at a Homeless Veterans Workshop, where government officials discussed efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate homelessness among veterans, and the Legion explained how departments and posts are working to achieve the same goal

"We just try to make things better."

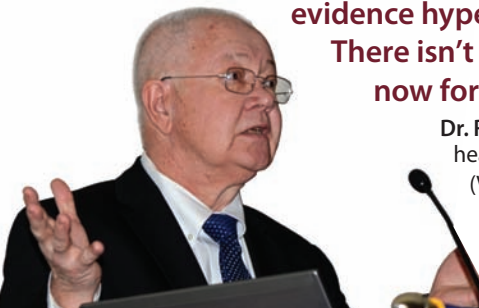
Walter V. Finley, Navy veteran and Legionnaire, who donated more than 3,100 hours of his time in just over a year to help veteran patients in the New York Harbor VA Healthcare System, after he was honored as the VAVS Worker of the Year

"There's one very simple reason why you're doing this: you love this country with all your heart, and you recognize that if you're not doing it, no one else will."

Rep. Tim Walz, DFL-Minn., on the Legion's efforts to ensure adequate VA funding, which led to a 2013 budget request of \$140.3 billion, up 10.5 percent from 2012

"VA and DoD are engaged in five studies to look at hyperbaric oxygen, specifically as it relates to PTSD. (With) acute traumatic brain injury, there is some evidence hyperbaric oxygen works. There isn't any good evidence right now for chronic TBI."

Dr. Robert Petzel, undersecretary for health, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), on his agency's progress in alternative methods for treating post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injury



"Most women veterans had no idea they had as much right to the VA health-care system as the men did."

Dr. Omega Silva, professor emeritus of medicine at George Washington University, speaking at a panel discussion about rural health care for female veterans at VA medical centers

"Congress has skin in the game ... and by extension, America has skin in the game."

Lt. Col. Joseph Gallagher, U.S. Marine Corps, in a presentation to a joint session of the National Security and Foreign Relations commissions about the disjointed condition of war-making powers between the executive and legislative branches

"Our America deserves a little fact with its fiction when it comes to motion pictures and television."

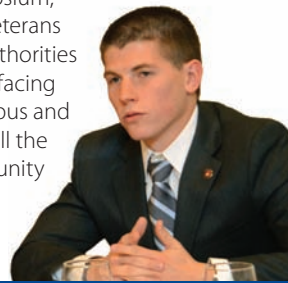
Dale Dye, retired Marine Corps captain and top military adviser for such movies as "Saving Private Ryan" and "Platoon," after receiving the National Commander's Public Relations Award

"The president said in his State of the Union address that there were 2 million jobs in America that needed to be filled, and couldn't be filled because we lacked a trained work force. The president just gave us the perfect platform to make veterans, Guard and reservists, military spouses and active-duty transitioning servicemembers ... the core of the supply for those 2 million jobs."

Kevin Schmiegel, executive director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Hiring Our Heroes program, during a two-day National Credentialing Summit, where representatives from the U.S. government, the military, private industry and nonprofits met to analyze the issue of licensing and credentialing in the private sector and what can be done to help veterans use their military experience to qualify

"A lot of veterans come to school, and they don't want to be known. They don't want to come into a room and announce themselves as being someone with a diverse, professional background – combat deployments, what have you."

T.M. Gibbons-Neff, Georgetown University student veteran, at The American Legion Education Symposium, where student veterans and academic authorities examined issues facing veterans on campus and assessed how well the academic community is responding to ensure their success



For full coverage, visit the Legion website and click on "More Headlines."

 www.legion.org

[VERBATIM]

“I prayed to have the strength to survive, that I want these kids to have a mom, and I did not want them to grow up without me.”

Stephanie Decker, whose legs were crushed while shielding her children from a tornado that destroyed their Marysville, Ind., home March 2

“I will never let my people live in the shadow of annihilation.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, on the need to stop Iran's nuclear program

“Iran is not telling us everything.”

Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), on the likelihood that Iran is not disclosing all its nuclear facilities to U.N. inspectors

“This is a Cadillac product, and that's why you have a premium on it.”

Brad Paulsen, merchant for the light-bulb category at Home Depot, on Philips' new \$50 LED bulb. The company won the U.S. government's \$10 million “L Prize” for developing a green but affordable bulb made at least partially in the United States.

“A veteran is someone who wrote a blank check, payable to the United States of America, for an amount up to and including his own life.”

Gene Castagnetti, director of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, retired Marine Corps colonel and Vietnam War veteran



U.S. Air Force

Sources: FOX 59, BBC, Reuters, *The Washington Post*

[MILITARY AFFAIRS]

A stronger military alliance

In a sign of their deepening cooperation, the United States and the Philippines are hammering out a range of new security-related agreements that will grant the United States military access to bases, ports and airfields in the Philippines.

“It's access, not bases,” one Philippine official told Reuters. A similar model has been applied to U.S.-Australian military cooperation.

The United States and the Philippines are also developing plans for resupply and refueling for U.S. assets, as well as for joint training and exercises. With an eye on China, Manila is increasingly open to cooperation with Washington, and has sought U.S. military equipment in recent years, including cutters for the Philippine navy.



[HISTORY]

Tyler's long lineage

John Tyler was president of the United States from 1841 to 1845, serving as the nation's 10th chief executive after the death of William Henry Harrison. That's not particularly newsworthy. What is newsworthy – and surprising – is that President Tyler's grandchildren are still alive.

Lyon Tyler Jr., born in 1924, and Harrison Tyler, born in 1928, are two sons of Lyon Tyler, one of President Tyler's 15 children. As Fox News reports, the elder Lyon was born when President Tyler was 63, and he had his sons when he was in his 70s – explaining how John Tyler's grandchildren are still with us 167 years after he left office.

[CAPITOL HILL]

Time for a cut

The U.S. Senate barbershop ran a nearly \$300,000 deficit last year. It was so bad that the Senate's favorite spot for a trim was actually bailed out by “an infusion from Senate coffers that is keeping it in business,” *The Daily Reports*.

When informed of the news, many senators were stunned. When Sen. Benjamin Cardin, D-Md., heard that the barbershop had a shortfall, he replied, “It did? It shouldn't. It should pay for itself.”

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., was surprised because the barbershop's prices are relatively high. A regular haircut costs \$20 at the Senate barbershop, almost double what Leahy pays his barber back in Vermont. “I give him \$12 with a tip,” he said.

Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, R-Ill., said the problem stems from the fact that the barbershop's employees, who are federal workers, are overpaid.

“To support his argument,” *The Daily Reports*, “Fitzgerald contrasts the salaries and benefits of the Senate's stylists to what is offered by Capitol Barber, three blocks away. Capitol's four barbers and stylists made \$22,000 to \$30,000 last year with no benefits ... At the Senate barbershop, formally called Senate Hair Care Services, the top four barbers and stylists made more than twice that – \$54,761, \$70,349, \$73,658 and \$81,641 – plus they have a generous 401(k) plan, health care and paid vacation. In all, the government contributed \$230,000 in benefits for the barbershop.”



Media Bakery

Editor's note: April's Rapid Fire section listed the 94th National Convention's Exhibit Hall as being located in Halls E and F. It will be in Halls C and F.

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— Johnnie E., Ellijay, Ga

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[MEMORIAM]

PNC William Galbraith 'a man of integrity'

William E. Galbraith's early interest in The American Legion wasn't for much more than a place to play pinochle. That changed in 1950 when his wife, Gwen, became president of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 159 in Beemer, Neb., the same post he'd joined that year.

Gwen attended Nebraska's Auxiliary convention and told Galbraith that if he'd get more involved in the Legion, he'd find it to be an important organization doing important things.

Galbraith took his wife's advice, and became post commander in 1953. A decade later, he began moving up in the organization's ranks. He served as Department of Nebraska commander from 1962 to 1963, Nebraska's National Executive Committeeman from 1964 to 1965, a national vice commander from 1965 to 1966, and national commander from 1967 to 1968. He passed away March 4 at 86.

"He was a dedicated Legionnaire who always put the Legion up front and above everything else," said Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutek, who knew Galbraith for more than 50 years. "He was truly interested in The American Legion and in our veterans."

"On a personal note, he was a man of integrity. He always spoke from the heart and was very sincere. I'm going to miss him, and I know the organization is going to miss him."

Past National Commander Clarence Bacon met Galbraith in the early 1960s. "On a personal level, he was a real gentleman," Bacon said. "He was always very concerned and caring toward veterans, and he was willing to do all kinds of jobs to help them at both the state and national level."

Born in 1926, Galbraith tried to enter the military at 17, but his father wouldn't sign the papers. He joined when he turned 18 and served as a radarman with the Navy Armed Guard. While he was stationed mostly in the United States, he did make one trip across the Atlantic to La Havre, France.



American Legion photo

After his service, Galbraith attended the University of Nebraska on the GI Bill, graduating in just three years with a bachelor's degree in agricultural extension. He went on to teach school for several years before becoming the owner and operator of a 320-acre cattle and pork farm in Nebraska.

During his tenure as post commander, Galbraith led a program that established a \$26,000 Legion-owned medical clinic; the town had been without a doctor for 12 years.

Nine years later, Galbraith was elected department commander. Nebraska's governor named him co-chairman of a three-year series of state regional conferences on education. He also served on the state's Centennial Celebration Commission, which served him well when he began helping plan the Legion's 50th anniversary in 1969.

"I was very impressed with his background," said Department of New York Adjutant Dick Pedro, who first met Galbraith when he was campaigning for national commander in New York. "He came up very fast within the ranks of The American Legion."

Galbraith was elected national commander Aug. 31, 1967, at 41. During his tenure, he had a chance to visit South Vietnam. Upon his return, he

wrote that those wanting to abandon the war efforts there hadn't had a chance to visit the country.

"On all sides I was surprised to see a nation with an enormous future," he wrote in *The American Legion Magazine*. "(It's) a rich land, ripe for development, inhabited by a people with the native talent to develop it." He said the future needed to be considered, not just the present.

As 1968 was an election year, Galbraith warned against using Vietnam for political gains, especially when it came to discussing negotiations to end the war. "The negotiations are no game for amateurs," he wrote.

Looking past his own term, Galbraith created The American Legion Task Force for the Future. Its mission, he said, was to examine the posture of the United States in several critical areas, and to examine the programs and goals of the Legion to determine their fit with current U.S. life and come up with new ways to contribute, in order to provide the Legion with a strategy for the future.

Membership in the organization increased by more than 36,000 during Galbraith's term. As one of his final acts as national commander, he presented Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor with \$50,000, a down payment on the Legion's gift to the nation: a permanent lighting system for the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. In addition, a trust was established to cover the cost of future maintenance to the lighting system.

Galbraith belonged to numerous other veterans service and civic organizations and was selected for several appointments through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"He really worked long and hard for The American Legion and for the farmers back in his home state," Bacon said. "If you're looking for an individual who was dedicated for his entire life to veterans, that man was Bill Galbraith."

Galbraith is survived by wife Gwen, daughter Claudia and son Billy.

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Today Morgans are hard to find. "O" Morgans are even harder to find.

These massive silver coins from the historic New Orleans Mint are almost never seen in public.

Few people have even *heard* of the New Orleans Mint. It shut its doors in 1909, but not before striking its share of big, beautiful Morgan Silver Dollars.

They're known as New Orleans Mint Morgans. With the big "O"

mint mark. Can you find it on the coin to the right?

Americans love Morgans. At 26.7 grams and in 90% pure silver, it's easy to see why. They're incredibly popular—one of the most collected of all United States coins.

The silver market is red-hot but we managed to find a small hoard.

Call it good luck or good fortune, we have a very small quantity of these unique, historic and scarce New Orleans Mint Silver "O" Morgans.

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You can. *If you act right away!* But your window of opportunity is closing rapidly.

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[CONVENTION]



Photo courtesy Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association

Color guard contest moved to Friday

This year's American Legion color guard contest has been moved from its normal day of Saturday to Friday, Aug. 24, during the 94th National Convention in Indianapolis.

"The decision to move the National Color Guard Contest to Friday evening is a great step forward," says Dave Priester, chief contest judge. "This move allows delegates, usually in meetings on Saturday morning, an opportunity to watch and support their favorite American Legion color guard."

"I cannot think of a better way to start the convention weekend. The pageantry of the contest is not only a testament to past and present military members, but also to our national flag."

The band contest will be Saturday, Aug. 25, its traditional day. Contact the Convention & Meetings Office at (317) 630-1292 with any questions. Updated rules and entry forms for both contests are available on the convention page online.



Tom Strattman

 www.legion.org/convention

2012 National Convention hotel directory

The following is a list of department assignments for hotels during the 94th National Convention in Indianapolis:

Courtyard by Marriott

601 W. Washington St.

(317) 822-9029

Department: Ohio

Crowne Plaza

123 W. Louisiana St.

(317) 236-7464

Departments: Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon

Embassy Suites

110 W. Washington St.

(317) 236-1800

Departments: New Mexico, Tennessee, Washington

Fairfield Inn & Suites

601 W. Washington St.

(317) 636-7678

Departments: Arkansas, California

Hilton Indianapolis

120 W. Market St.

Indianapolis, IN

(317) 972-0600

Departments: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, West Virginia, American Legion National Headquarters

Hilton Garden Inn

10 E. Market St.

(317) 955-9700

Departments: Mississippi, New Jersey

Hyatt Regency

1 S. Capitol Ave.

(317) 616-6066

Departments: Delaware, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Sons of The American Legion, 8 et 40

Indianapolis Marriott

350 W. Maryland St.

(317) 822-3500

Departments: Alaska, District of Columbia, France, Hawaii, Mexico, New York, Philippines, Puerto Rico, American Legion National Headquarters

JW Marriott

10 S. West St.

(317) 822-8554

Departments: Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, American Legion National Headquarters

Omni Severin

40 W. Jackson Place

(317) 634-6664

Departments: Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts

Sheraton

31 W. Ohio St.

(317) 635-2000

Departments: Georgia, Texas

SpringHill Suites

601 W. Washington St.

(317) 972-7293

Departments: Maine, Oklahoma, Wyoming

Westin


50 S. Capitol Ave.

(317) 231-3922

Departments: Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, American Legion National Headquarters

Editor's note: Legionnaires attending the convention should contact their department adjutants about lodging.

 www.legion.org/convention

"Like" The American Legion 94th National Convention on Facebook:  www.legion.org/facebook
Click on the convention logo.

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Item 46807 shown

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\$199
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38602728

29 PIECE TITANIUM NITRIDE COATED DRILL BIT SET
drillmaster
LOT NO. 5889

SAVE 60%
\$999
REG. PRICE \$24.99

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41086920

CENTECH AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER
LOT NO. 42292/69594

Item 42292 shown

SAVE 57%
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95214637

HaulMaster MOVER'S DOLLY
LOT NO. 93888

Item 938 shown

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\$799
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HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS - LIMIT 7 This valuable coupon is good anywhere you shop Harbor Freight Tools (retail stores, online, or 800 number). Cannot be used with any other discount or coupon. Coupon not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Coupon cannot be bought, sold, or transferred. Original coupon must be presented in-store, or with your order form, or entered online in order to receive the coupon discount. Valid through 8/14/12. Limit one coupon per customer and one coupon per day.

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WIRELESS DRIVEWAY ALERT SYSTEM
Bunker Hill Security®
LOT NO. 93068

Requires one 9 volt and three C batteries (sold separately).

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PITTSBURGH RAPID PUMP® 3 TON HEAVY DUTY FLOOR JACK
WEIGHS 74 LBS.
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Item 68048 shown

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\$6999
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42262924

18 VOLT CORDLESS 3/8" DRILL/DRIVER AND FLASHLIGHT KIT
drillmaster
LOT NO. 68287

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SAVE 50%
\$1999
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CENTRALPNEUMATIC 3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR
LOT NO. 95275

SAVE 50%
\$3999
REG. PRICE \$79.99

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93196178

US★GENERAL 11 DRAWER ROLLER CABINET
INCLUDES:
• 6 Drawer Top Chest
• 2 Drawer Middle Section
• 3 Drawer Roller Cabinet
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SAVE \$150
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50136268

BADLAND WINCHES 2000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE
LOT NO. 68146

SAVE \$50
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[CAREERS]

What not to do

Here are some tips to get the most out of the limited space you have to make a first impression on potential employers:



■ **Don't** begin your search with an email address that touts your expertise in drinking, partying and scores of other activities. Get a

free account and manage your search as the professional job-seeker you are.

■ **Don't** waste valuable résumé real estate. Replace objectives with skill summaries and career profiles that focus on your core competencies and the value you can bring.

■ **Don't** include irrelevant employment experience. Your résumé is a marketing document designed to showcase highlights of your experience, military service and education as they relate to your current objectives. What matters differs for each job seeker. For a 22-year-old, part-time jobs during high school might add skills and substance. For a 52-year-old, they don't.

■ **Don't** include reasons for leaving your last job. Save that discussion for the interview, so that you can present it favorably no matter the circumstance. There's always a way to put a positive spin on a situation.

■ **Don't** include age, race, ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, marital status, Social Security number, or other facts that could be used to discriminate, and simply don't matter anyway. Also, take out information about your hobbies. They aren't really relevant.

■ **Don't** make mistakes. Proofread, proofread and then proofread again. Little turns off a prospective employer faster than a grammatical or typographical error.

Wendy Enelow is co-author of "Expert Résumés for Military-to-Civilian Transitions" and "Executive Résumé Toolkit."



[PERSONAL FINANCE]

Legion's DSOs there to help

Whether answering questions at www.legion.org, writing magazine features or penning this monthly column, our goal has always been to provide clear, concise and accurate financial guidance. What we didn't bargain for when we embarked on this journey was that we'd learn a lot along the way, too. For example, despite the fact we have both served, we had no idea that service officers were out there, or that The American Legion was a key player in what they do.

When J.J.'s father was stricken with, and later passed away from, mesothelioma, both J.J. and his father's widow were helped by a service officer, and it was a big deal. At the time, J.J. just didn't know from where that huge helping hand had come. While the existence of these folks may be old news to you, it was a pleasant surprise for J.J. and his family.

As financial planners, we've certainly been confronted with situations where veterans, widows or children have been overwhelmed by bureaucracy as they've tried to tap into benefits earned through service and sacrifice. Often, the difficult path created by massive paperwork requirements, resubmissions and a system that at times appears overwhelming is further complicated by the tough circumstances in which veterans and their families attempt to navigate their way through the quagmire. To the rescue comes the service officer.

So how can one of these folks help you, a veteran, or a veteran's family you know? First, they are experts on the laws, rules and regulations regarding veterans benefits. The service officer knows the answers to questions you may not know to ask. They complete a comprehensive training course, and have the knowledge that comes

from day-to-day immersion in the veterans-benefits system.

Where are they? Everywhere. Although the Legion's department service officers (DSOs) are located at VA regional offices and can be contacted directly through the Legion, the network of service officers goes well beyond DSOs. Many counties have veterans service officers, and they are employed by state governments.

The Legion plays a large role in the service officer network across the country by providing important training, especially in the form of its annual DSO schools. So no matter what your question concerns – hospitalization, compensation, pension or education benefits – the service officer is there to help.

Of course, knowing that a benefit exists is the easy part. Traversing the paperwork of the claims process and procedures can challenge even the most patient of people. Here again, the service officer plays a key role by identifying and completing the appropriate forms and paperwork. The service officer who worked with J.J.'s family actually completed the forms for them.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this type of help, take heart in knowing that it's close at hand. As a starting point, check out the Legion's DSO Locator at www.legion.org/education/serviceofficers. If a DSO's location is not convenient for you, the Legion can help you find assistance closer to home.

June Lantz Walbert and J.J. Montanaro are certified financial planners for USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for them online.

www.legion.org/focusonfinances



– SAVE \$75 - \$150 PER YEAR ON BAGS OF SALT ALONE –

Get Rid of Hard Water Problems Without Expensive Water Softeners

Made with Pride in
North Canton Ohio

Eliminate unsightly limescale and actually prevent it from forming

By: B. Michael John, Media Services

Are you tired of hard water problems: **unsightly scale** on fixtures, toilet bowls and showerheads; **scale build-up** in pipes; **poor lather** from detergents and shampoos; **clothes that look dingy** and feel harsh after washing; **hard-to-remove film** on glass shower doors, walls and bathtubs; hair that feels sticky and looks dull; **dry, itchy skin**; **soap scum** on sinks and appliances?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you are the perfect candidate to try the ScaleRID Electronic Hard Water Treatment System in your home for the next 120 days.

If you don't get RID of your hard water problems, you will receive a complete refund.

But that won't happen because ScaleRID is one of the most advanced, effective electronic hard water treatment systems you will find for such a low cost. It's also the easiest to install.

Q. But how exactly does it work?

A. The ScaleRID, which is about 4" x 6" and weighs less than 3 pounds, treats hard water with a patented technology that induces variable electric fields with a continuously changing frequency. This field causes the dissolved minerals of calcium and magnesium to crystallize and remain in suspension, instead of adhering to the walls of piping, faucets or heating elements.

These minerals, now in suspension, flow with the water and are discharged down the drain (see diagram and our ScaleRID white paper at www.usascalerid.com for more details).

Q. How is ScaleRID different from salt-based water softeners?

A. In a salt-based water softener, an ion exchange takes place and the hard ions in calcium and magnesium trade places with the soft ions from the salt poured into the tank used during regeneration.

Most of the salt used for regeneration gets flushed out of the system. The process can be damaging to the environment, not to mention wasting 80-150 gallons of water a week or month and adding unhealthy salt to your water.

Q. What makes ScaleRID so special compared to other electronic water treatment systems?

A. International Home Shopping (IHS) just completed an upgrade of ScaleRID to make it: 1) **the easiest to install**; with our new exclusive Quick Connect Coil you can have your

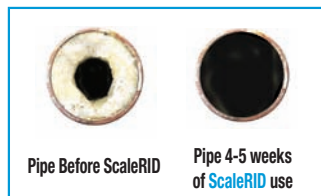
ScaleRID up and running in about 10 minutes, 2) **one of the most advanced**; new computer chips replace integrated circuits to make the ScaleRID the most efficient device for its cost, 3) **the least expensive**; even with all our improvements, we lowered our prices so that everyone with hard water problems can get RID of them simply, safely and inexpensively.

Q. Without regeneration, how will I know the ScaleRID is working?

A. You will get the most important benefit: you will not be bothered by hard water problems. Within the first week, you will see the elimination of new scale deposits and loosening of existing scale. Soap will lather easier; your skin will feel softer and your hair cleaner and more manageable. You will notice the reduced amounts of soap, shampoo, detergents and cleaners you need to use to get jobs done. Cleaning of surfaces, especially chrome, baths and sinks will be easier. Your water pressure may improve without scale clogging your pipes.

Q. This sounds too good to be true; does ScaleRID really work?

A. The science behind ScaleRID has been around for years. There are hundreds of thousands of units operating in 40 countries. But thanks to IHS, everyone can now utilize this science because ScaleRID is so easy to install, so efficient and effective and so reasonably priced.



Q. What is the difference between the SR-1000 and the SR-2000?

The big difference is that the ScaleRID SR-1000 is for moderate to hard water and comes with one Quick Connect Coil. The ScaleRID SR-2000 is for very hard water or for homes/duplexes with large water usage and comes with two Quick Connect Coils.

You cannot afford not to try ScaleRID in your home for 120 days. If it's not for you, return it for a complete refund. YOU RISK

NOTHING.

Just think how you'll enjoy not lugging those salt bags around, but still getting rid of hard water problems.

How To Order

The ScaleRID SR-2000 for very hard water is regularly \$497 plus \$10 shipping. For the next 10 days you receive a \$250 discount, over 50% off, plus FREE shipping and pay \$247 delivered.

The ScaleRID SR-1000 for hard water is regularly \$197 plus \$10 shipping. Over the same time period you receive a \$50 discount and FREE shipping and pay only \$147 delivered.

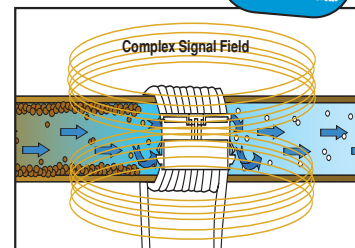
For more information or to start your 120-Day ScaleRID No Risk Challenge call toll-free or go online at www.usascalerid.com.



Quick Connect Coil attaches in seconds around water pipe. Works on copper, PVC, galvanized pipe.

ScaleRID How It Works

- Install in 10 Minutes - No Plumbers
- No Maintenance
- The system consists of the energizing unit and a Quick Connect Coil that simply snaps around the pipe of the incoming water supply.
- The 21st century way to eliminate limescale and hard water problems in city water and well water.
- Unit weighs less than 3 lbs. No more big tanks and heavy salt bags to lug around.



Incoming water saturated with calcium and other mineral ions in solution.

Solution less saturated with calcium and able to dissolve existing scale.

100%
Satisfaction Guarantee
120-Day Home Trial

ScaleRID vs. Salt-Based Water Softener Comparison

| | ScaleRID | Salt-Based Water Softener |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cost | under \$150 | \$400 - \$1,800.00 |
| Maintenance | none | constant maintenance |
| Treatment Method | electrical field | salt-based ion exchange |
| Installation | 10 minute do-it-yourself | professional |
| Scale Removal | YES | NO |
| Scale Prevention | YES | NO |
| Back Flush | NO | YES 80-100 gallons per week |
| Skin Test | makes skin softer | makes skin dry |
| Soap Test | soap suds wash away | soap suds difficult to remove |
| Health Benefits | leaves in essential minerals | exchanges minerals with sodium |

Non-Paid ScaleRID User Testimonials

The ScaleRID has helped my plumbing tremendously. It has cleaned out the build-up on all my faucets. There is no more residue on my sink... and most importantly, not in my coffee pots. I am a very satisfied customer.

Mrs. Wagner, WY

The product is very wonderful. There is no more build-up on my shower heads. They are no longer plugging up... from all the years of build-up. I have only had the product for several months, however I am very satisfied.

Mr. Finch, WA

Our water is much cleaner and we get more suds when we do laundry and dishes. Also, the unit was very easy to install. I would recommend this unit to many more friends.

M. Sousoures, NV

CALL 1-800-555-1659 • Offer Code SCA230 • www.usascalerid.com

[EDUCATION]

Transferred GI Bill benefits good for varying lengths of time



Q: How long can I use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits transferred to me?

A: If you are a spouse, you can begin using the transferred benefits after the transferor completes six years of service.

If you are a child at least 18 years old (or you have

completed your secondary school requirements), you can begin using the transferred benefits after the transferor completes 10 years of service.

You remain eligible to use transferred benefits until the earliest of the following dates:

For a spouse

- The transferor's ending date of eligibility (generally 15 years from the transferor's last discharge from active duty)
- The ending date specified by the transferor (if one was specified)
- The effective date the transferor revokes the transferred entitlement
- Fifteen years after the transferor's date of death (if the transferor dies while on active duty)

For a child

- Your 26th birthday
- The ending date specified by the transferor (if one was specified)
- The effective date the transferor revokes the transferred entitlement

Keep in mind that the transferor retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time.

Valerie Heffner, a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona, is a past vice president of the National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators. askvalerie@legion.org

[MEMBERSHIP]

NEW POSTS

American Legion Post 2000, Loveland, Colo.
Chartered Feb. 7 (15 members)

All American Post 82, New Orleans
Chartered Feb. 7 (15 members)

American Legion Post 402, Livingston, Texas
Chartered Feb. 7 (15 members)

American Legion Post 69, Rogue River, Ore.
Chartered Feb. 15 (15 members)

Gen. James A. Van Fleet and Capt. James A. Van Fleet II Post 396, Polk City, Fla. Chartered Feb. 22 (15 members)

[ENTERTAINMENT]

'I had a better mousetrap'



When Dale Dye accepted the 2012 American Legion National Commander's Public Relations Award at the Washington Conference in February, he took time to discuss his career with American Legion Communications Director John Raughter.

Why did you go into the film business?

I decided that I was tired of seeing the depiction of the American military and the American veteran in movies and television that was just not what I knew from my own experience. I said, "This is unfair." It upset my sense of decorum. So I took off for Hollywood and said, "All right, I have a mission, and that's to fix this and to unscrew it and change the way things are made. And so I'm going to do it."

How receptive was Hollywood at first?

Not at all. I was escorted off many movie lots by the security folks. Fortunately, most of them were former military, so I didn't get arrested and booked. The big problem was convincing them that I had a better idea, a better mousetrap.

What's your biggest challenge today in the film industry?

My biggest challenge is really in the performance of the actors. What's difficult is making young actors, who have absolutely no military experience at all – and not only actors but writers, directors, producers – they have no contact with the military ... There's just a huge gap between those who served and those who haven't. So the challenge is taking those folks and teaching them that what we really do and who we really are is much more interesting, much more dramatic and much more impactful than what they dream up.

Is there one project where you said, "That's it! That's the message we are trying to portray"?

I think "Band of Brothers" did it. It will live long after me or any of the actors or anything else, because it really portrays the relationship between soldiers *in extremis* – soldiers who are facing life and death every day. We captured that. And that's what makes it magic.

What's next for you?

Two things. I've written and am about to direct a film called "No Better Place to Die," which is about the 82nd Airborne at La Fièvre on D-Day. So it covers D-Day and D-plus-3. And then I'm about to do 10 episodes like "Band of Brothers" but on Korea. It's called "The Forgotten War." I've also authored a book series called the File Series. It begins with "Laos File." Then it goes to "Peleliu File," and this summer we will be releasing "Chosin File."

Watch Dye's acceptance speech, and read an expanded version of this interview: www.legion.org/magazine



Cover, *The American Legion Magazine*, June 1944

Some things never change: The soldier far from home still dreams about home, Mom, and apple pie.

This is particularly true of our wounded men and women who are far from home *and* hurting. The American Legion's Comfort Warriors program makes sure these folks have the personal comfort items they need from home. To make sure they will always have those items, leave part of your estate to the Legion's Comfort Warriors program through your will.

A bequest to The American Legion is one of the simplest and most popular ways to ensure that the Legion's programs will continue to support soldiers and veterans into the future. It's a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime yet allows you to have a lasting impact, just as those before you have done, while receiving valuable long-term tax savings.

To find out how, please visit www.legion.giftplans.org/bequest.

The information contained herein is offered for general informational and educational purposes. State law may affect the results illustrated. You should seek the advice of an attorney for applicability to your own situation.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Contact us today and visit us at
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Mike Pirnat • Fundraising Division
mpirnat@legion.org • (317) 860-3006

[MEMBER BENEFITS]

New hearing health-care discounts for Legionnaires, Sons

HearPO, one of the largest providers of hearing health-care programs in the United States, has signed an agreement with The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion. Legionnaires and Sons, as well as their immediate family members, can obtain discounted hearing-care services and hearing aids, along with other benefits provided by more than 2,700 HearPO-credentialed clinics across the country.

"We are proud to offer HearPO benefits to nearly 3 million veterans of our nation's armed forces and their family members," said Michele Fusco, senior vice president of medical business operations. "Legionnaires have given so much to our country, and they continue to do wonderful work in the communities where they live. It is a great honor for HearPO to be a preferred provider for such a highly regarded organization on behalf of its members."

Many military veterans struggle with hearing loss as a result of exposure to noise and other factors, Fusco noted.

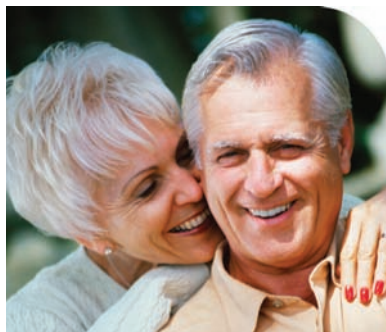
"We aim to make it as easy and affordable as possible for them to access high-quality, potentially life-changing hearing health care," she said.

Greg Roth, the Legion's director of membership support services, said he believes the HearPO program will be welcomed by Legionnaires.

"Damage to hearing has been a battlefield risk ever since the invention of explosives and artillery," he said. "And it's not just older members who are suffering. We're seeing significant hearing loss in servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, often due to roadside bombings and firefights. The American Legion is committed to finding relief for members of all ages, and HearPO will play a significant role in helping us make it happen."

Some restrictions and exclusions apply. The program, and the products and services offered, are not available by direct mail in the state of Washington.

 www.hearpo.com/legion



Call to learn more about
your discount

1-877-381-9981

[LEGION BASEBALL]

World Series acts announced

Award-winning country music duo Montgomery Gentry will kick off The American Legion World Series in Shelby, N.C., with a live performance Aug. 16. As strong supporters of the military, they entertained troops in Iraq multiple times, and recorded "What It Takes" for the soundtrack to the recent action film "Act of Valor."

On Aug. 12, the contemporary Christian band MercyMe will make a special tour stop in Shelby to honor U.S. servicemembers and veterans. In 2009, the Grammy-nominated group released the song "Finally Home," which struck a chord with military families. The band has since become an active supporter of the U.S. military. MercyMe is traveling nearly 700 miles to Shelby after performing the night before in South Bend, Ind.

Both concerts will be at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. Go online for ticket prices and other purchase information.

 www.legion.org/baseball

 www.americanlegionworldseries.com



American Legion photo

[PUBLIC RELATIONS]

New PR toolkit now available

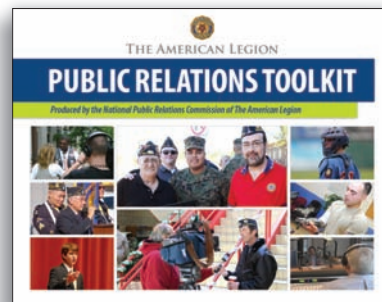
The American Legion Public Relations Toolkit – an interactive, convenient and current resource with the latest communications tools – is now available.

A wealth of background, information and guidance is available on all aspects of a Legion post's PR effort.

The print publication includes a DVD that contains both an interactive PDF version of the toolkit and resource files. The entire toolkit is also available for download on the Legion's website, and the online version – especially the text annexes, with their customizable samples and other resources – will be frequently updated so Legionnaires can stay up to date on PR developments and Legion programs and priorities. There is even an annex dedicated to USAA media products.

Both forms of the toolkit – print and online – are free. To order the print version, contact the Public Relations Division at (317) 630-1253 or email pr@legion.org.

 www.legion.org/prtoolkit



Consumers dump cable and satellite for free TV invention with no monthly bills

Slick little \$47 invention pulls in up to 953 crystal clear over-the-air digital TV shows Free with no monthly bills

U.S. RESIDENTS

If you live in one of the U.S. zip codes listed below call the special 7-day hotlines to get Free TV

(UMS) - The Free TV Hotlines are ringing off the hook.

That's because U.S. residents who find their zip code listed in today's publication are getting Free TV thanks to an amazing razor-thin invention called Clear-Cast™.

U.S. residents who get the Clear-Cast by calling the Free TV Hotlines before the 7-day order deadline ends can get over 953 crystal clear over-the-air digital TV shows each year for free and get rid of their cable or satellite bills.¹

This is all possible because a U.S. federal law makes TV broadcasters transmit their signals in a digital format, which allows everyone to receive digital broadcast signals for free with no monthly bills.

These are the over-the-air broadcast signals that the cable and satellite companies get and then re-transmit to you for a hefty charge every month.

Here's how it works. The Clear-Cast's advanced patent-pending design links up directly to receive local and national shows being broadcast in your area. It performs like a huge outdoor directional antenna but in a lightweight, slim-line package. This allows people everywhere to bypass the cable and satellite middleman and get the crystal clear digital and high-definition over-the-air signals free of charge.

Clear-Cast was invented by Dr. Argy Petros, a renowned NASA Space Technology Hall of Fame scientist who currently holds 22 U.S. Gov't issued patents.

"People who get the Clear-Cast will say it feels like getting an extra paycheck every month. That's because it doesn't pull in those expensive cable and satellite-only pay channels so all the money you were spending on cable and satellite bills will go back in your pocket every month," said Dr. Petros.

That way you can channel surf through the favorite TV shows absolutely free. The number of shows and channels you'll get depends on where you live. Peo-

ple living in large metropolitan areas may get up to 53 crystal clear channels, while people in outlying areas will get less. That means even if you're in a rural area that pulls in NBC, ABC, CBS, FOX and PBS broadcasts there's up to 953 shows each year to watch for free.

Thousands of U.S. residents are expected to call to get Clear-Cast because it just doesn't make any sense to keep paying for TV when you can get hundreds of shows absolutely free.

So, U.S. residents lucky enough to find their zip code listed in today's publication need to immediately call the



■ **U.S. RESIDENTS GET FREE TV:** Fed-Ex® trucks are being loaded for delivery with thousands of Clear-Casts that can eliminate cable or satellite bills and pull in up to 953 crystal clear over-the-air digital TV shows for free with no monthly bills.

Free TV Hotlines before the 7-day deadline ends to get the Clear-Cast that gives every-

one Free TV. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered. ■

Who Gets Free TV: Listed below are the U.S. zip codes that get Free TV with Clear-Cast¹: If you find the first two digits of your zip code immediately call **1-888-898-6615**

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Alabama 35, 36 | Florida 32, 33, 34 | Kentucky 40, 41, 42 | Missouri 63, 64, 65 | New York 00, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 | Rhode Island 02 | Virginia 20, 22, 23, 24 |
| Alaska 99 | Georgia 30, 31, 39 | Louisiana 70, 71 | Montana 59 | North Carolina 27, 28 | South Carolina 29 | Washington 98, 99 |
| Arizona 85, 86 | Hawaii 96 | Maine 03, 04 | Nebraska 68, 69 | North Dakota 58 | South Dakota 57 | West Virginia 24, 25, 26 |
| Arkansas 71, 72 | Idaho 83 | Maryland 20, 21 | Nevada 88, 89 | Ohio 41, 43, 44, 45 | Tennessee 37, 38 | Wisconsin 53, 54 |
| California Not available | Illinois 60, 61, 62 | Massachusetts Not available | New Hampshire 03 | Oklahoma 73, 74 | Texas 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 88 | Wyoming 82, 83 |
| Colorado 80, 81 | Indiana 46, 47 | Michigan 48, 49 | New Jersey 07, 08 | Oregon 97 | Utah 84 | Washington DC 20 |
| Connecticut 06 | Iowa 50, 51, 52 | Minnesota 55, 56 | New Mexico 87, 88 | Pennsylvania 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 | Vermont 05 | |
| Delaware 19 | Kansas 66, 67 | Mississippi 38, 39 | | | | |

Free TV Claim Code: XS132 - The Free TV Hotlines at **1-888-898-6615** and **1-888-820-3128** open precisely at 8:30am this morning. Only callers who beat the 7-day order deadline and provide the operator with the valid Free TV Claim Code listed above and live in one of the U.S. area zip codes that get Free TV will be permitted to get the Clear-Cast for just \$47 and shipping (plus applicable sales tax in OH & FL) to pull in up to 953 crystal clear digital TV shows each year for Free with no monthly bills.

How It Works: Just plug it in to your TV and pull in up to 953 crystal clear digital TV shows Free with no monthly bills.



Get the best shows on TV Free

| CHANNEL | SHOWS | CHANNEL | SHOWS |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| NBC HD | America's Got Talent, The Voice, Law and Order... | CREATE | Cooking, crafts, gardening, home improvement & travel... |
| ABC HD | Dancing with the Stars, Extreme Makeover, Modern Family... | PBS HD | Antiques Roadshow, NOVA, Frontline, News Hour... |
| CBS HD | NCIS, Survivor, CSI, The Mentalist, 60 Minutes... | PBS KIDS | Educational programming for kids, commercial free... |
| FOX HD | News, So You Think You Can Dance?, American Idol... | UNIVISION | Triunfo Del Amor, Papeños Gigantes... |
| CW | America's Next Top Model, Dr. Drew, One Tree Hill... | TELEMUNDO | ¡Nítido!, Persiguiendo Injusticias, ¡Levántate!... |
| ION TELEVISION | Criminal Minds, Without a Trace, Ghost Whisperer... | QUBO | Safe, educational channel for children and families... |
| ION LIFE | Decor, diet, health and fitness, sports & travel... | WEATHER | 24/7 local and national weather... |
| MY NETWORK TV | Law & Order: Criminal Intent, Burn Notice, Monk... | UNIVERSAL SPORTS | Live sports from around the world... |
| TRINITY BROADCASTING | Trinity Broadcasting Network, World's largest Christian network... | COOL TV | (Music TV) Pop, rock, soul, jazz, 60's, 70's, 80's, & 90's... |
| RETRO TV | (Retro TV) Magnum P.I., Ironside, Rockford Files, Kojak... | COUNTRY NETWORK | Country music videos... |
| THIS TV | Movie and TV classics... | HSN | (Home Shopping Network) jewelry, electronics & more... |

¹Clear-Cast is not cable or satellite TV. All the channels received with Clear-Cast are absolutely free with no service contracts, no equipment to lease and absolutely no monthly bills. Clear-Cast is being released by zip code to areas in which free over-the-air digital signals are broadcast so residents of those areas can get free TV. Clear-Cast's advanced design will not receive cable or satellite channels and is engineered to pull in channels being broadcast for free to eliminate cable and satellite bills. Trademarks and program names above are the property of their respective owners and are not affiliated with or endorsing the Clear-Cast. Offer not available to MA & CA residents.

FOR BRILLIANT BUILT TECHNOLOGIES 8000 FREEDOM AVE., N. CANTON OH 44720

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How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

1st Flt Det, Colorado Springs, CO, 6/4-7, Wayne Haring, (719) 598-2692, waynema@msn.com;
1st Mobile Comm Grp AACs/AFCs, Portland, OR, 10/3-7, Stan Phillips, (360) 978-6789, sfillips@earthlink.net;
7th Avn Field Depot Sqdn, Branson, MO, 9/25-27, Ted Blaylock, (573) 864-2120, jackblylck@aol.com;
20th AF (Guam), Branson, MO, 9/6-8, Rose Penrod, (217) 932-4286;
22nd Bomb Grp 5th AF, Austin, TX, 10/24-27, Ken Carlin, (215) 564-3694, mcarlin@verizon.net;
38th Bomb Wing 66th TAC Recon Wing (Laon AB, Aisne, France, 1953-1961), Little Rock, AR, 8/22-26, Lewis Holt, (501) 843-9363;
47th Bomb Wing Assn, Sacramento, CA, 10/17-20, Charlie Palmer, (907) 242-1530, [\[gci.net\]\(mailto:gci.net\); **57th Bomb Wing \(WWII\)**, Baltimore, 9/28-10/1, Pam Cosby, \(760\) 625-7996; **98th Air Fueling Sqdn**, La Crosse, WI, 9/18-21, Ray Steube, \(636\) 528-3799, \[rsteube@centurytel.net\]\(mailto:rsteube@centurytel.net\); **483rd Bomb Grp**, Detroit, 10/1-7, Sandee Maeda, \(760\) 213-5022, \[ivlt2u@msn.com\]\(mailto:ivlt2u@msn.com\); **492nd Bomb Grp H Assn**, San Diego, 8/22-26, Fran Gramberg, \(708\) 670-8084, \[fgramberg@msn.com\]\(mailto:fgramberg@msn.com\); **504th Bomb Grp \(Tinian, 1945\)**, Minneapolis, 9/5-9, Kaz Barcynski, \(252\) 637-0587, \[mskb134@gmail.com\]\(mailto:mskb134@gmail.com\); **6922nd Sec Wing Det 4 \(Udon, Thailand\)**, Sandy Hook, CT, 6/8-10, David Minnery, \(847\) 359-3578, \[minnery@sbcglobal.net\]\(mailto:minnery@sbcglobal.net\); **Air Weather Assn \(All Wars\)**, Omaha, NE, 8/1-5, Kevin Lavin, \(434\) 296-2832, \[airweaassn@aol.com\]\(mailto:airweaassn@aol.com\); **C-7A Caribou Assn \(Vietnam\)**, Dover, DE, 10/17-21, Pat Hanavan, \(210\) 479-0226, \[pathanvan@aol.com\]\(mailto:pathanvan@aol.com\);](mailto:crpalmer@</p>
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Laredo AFB Instructors & Permanent Party Officers, Reno, NV, 9/10-12, Don Hunt, (239) 281-5022, doneyhunt@att.net; **Pedro Rescue Heli Assn HH 43**, Seattle, 6/14-18, Len Shults, (334) 273-9804, nortensailor1@att.net; **RF-4C Photo Phantom Fixer, Photo Trp**, Omaha, NE, 5/17-20, Robert McCollugh, (402) 423-5292, mccollugh1@gmail.com; **Shepherds Grove**, Branson, MO, 9/20-24, Willie Miller, (740) 886-6393, wmiller35@hotmail.com; **Torrejon AB, Spain (All Yrs)**, Washington, 8/30-9/2, Burnethel Sanford, (951) 739-0202, mizbs3492@msn.com

ARMY

1st Bn 77th Armd, Frankenmuth, MI, 6/7-10, Bob Basner, (989) 624-4593, bobnconnie2@aol.com; **1/83rd Arty (Vietnam, 1966-1971)**, Savannah, GA, 10/7-9, Bill Taggart, (856) 228-5614, artillery_83rd@yahoo.com; **1st Armd Div Assn**, El Paso, TX, 8/13-18, Joe Sachen, (310) 990-8811, docsachen@gmail.com; **1st Bn M 50th Inf**, Brownwood, TX, 10/6-8, Michael Mulcahy, (781) 596-2241, **5th Bomb Grp (WWII)**, San Diego, 9/20-23, Dag Larsen, (949) 725-6460, daglynn@aol.com; **6th Armd Div**, New Orleans, 9/27-30, Lenore Murphy, (410) 529-8121, lenorecdm@verizon.net; **11th Army Cav Rgt Blackhorse Assn**, Williamsburg, VA, 6/7-10, Glenn Snodgrass, (703) 250-3064, snodgrassja@verizon.net; **13th Armd Div**, Pittsburgh, 9/19-23, Jo Ellen Bender, (630) 355-5332, jebender1520@aol.com; **21st & 31st MP Dets, 385th MP Bn & Supporting CID Units (Germany)**, Louisville, KY, 6/21-23, Thomas Briggs, (502) 295-5835, tombiggs@insightbb.com; **26th Inf Div Vets Assn**, Plymouth, MA, 6/7-9, Mike Bollino, (781) 337-3902; **27th Inf Rgt "Wolfhounds"**, Baltimore, 8/20-26, Patrick Cannan, (561) 252-6841, pcannan@comcast.net

32nd Grp 430th, 434th & 439th Eng Const Bn, Branson, MO, 8/10-12, David Mikusch, (636) 797-2323, hardwork50@sbcglobal.net; **46th Eng Bn**, Branson, MO, 9/6-9, MerriAnn Anderson, (616) 361-5973, merriann.anderson@sbcglobal.net; **69th Armd Assn**, Franklin, KY, 9/27-30, Bob Zepernick, (330) 821-2731, ztank32@aol.com; **7th Arty Assn**, Fernandina Beach, FL, 9/13-15, Jim Bowers, (904) 662-7638, jjb77faregt@aol.com; **84th & 62nd ECB**, Branson, MO, 9/24-28, Carol Nelson, (401) 738-0693, cen21255@verizon.net; **88th Inf Div TRUST & USFA**, Fort Stewart, GA, 7/12-15, Kal Rosenblum, (954) 907-3020, dkalfashions@att.net; **127th MP Co (Vietnam)**, Washington, 9/13-15, Jim Bruno, (845) 294-9158, jjb127mp@hvc.rr.com; **148th Inf Rgt 37th Div**, Port Clinton, OH, 8/24-25, Steve Whitcraft, (419) 203-8340, ckst@watchtv.net; **199th Inf Assn "Redcatchers"**, San Antonio, 6/18-22, Daniel Nixon, (509) 468-7281, nixonda1@hotmail.com; **299th Cbt Eng**, Niagara Falls, NY, 8/9-11, James Nelson, (616) 755-2618;



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"Well, I finally did it. I finally decided to enter the digital age and get a cell phone. My kids have been bugging me, my book group made fun of me, and the last straw was when my car broke down, and I was stuck by the highway for an hour before someone stopped to help. But when I went to the cell phone store, I almost changed my mind. The phones are so small I can't see the numbers, much less push the right one. They all have cameras, computers and a "global-positioning" something or other that's supposed to spot me from space. Goodness, all I want to do is to be able to talk to my grandkids! The people at the store weren't much help. They couldn't understand why someone wouldn't want a phone the size of a postage stamp. And the rate plans! They were complicated, confusing, and expensive...and the contract lasted for two years! I'd almost given up until a friend told me about her new Jitterbug® phone. **Now, I have the convenience and safety of being able to stay in touch...with a phone I can actually use.**"

Sometimes I think the people who designed this phone and the rate plans had me in mind. The phone fits easily into my pocket, and flips open to reach from my mouth to my ear. The display is large and backlit, so I can actually see who is calling. With a push of a button I can amplify the volume, and if I don't know a number, I can simply push "0" for a friendly, helpful operator that will look it up and even dial it for me. The Jitterbug also reduces background noise, making the sound loud and clear. There's even a dial tone, so I know the phone is ready to use.



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| 911 Access | FREE | FREE |
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Harry L. Estes, Dept. of Wyoming. Dept. Cmdr. 1965-1966 and Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1964-1965.

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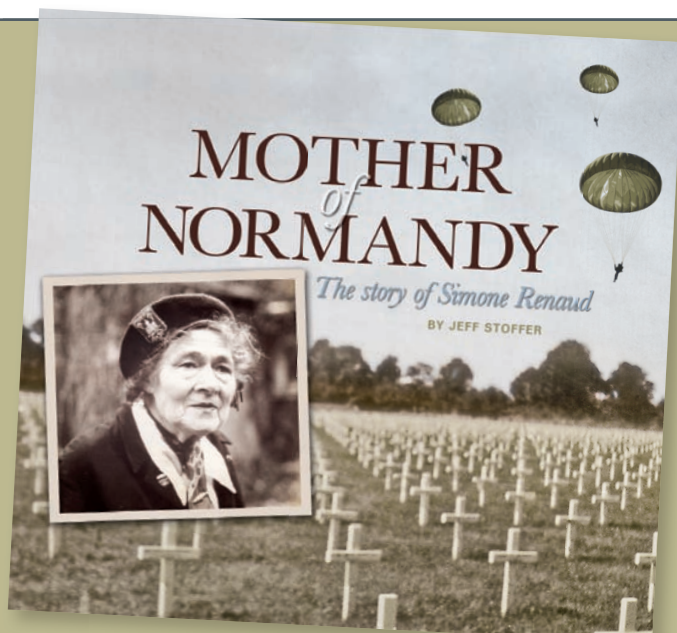
1967-1968, Nat'l 50th Anniversary Cmte. Exec. Section Memb. 1966-1967 and 1968-1969, Nat'l Child Welfare Foundation Treasurer, 1966-1967, Nat'l Child Welfare Foundation Director 1965-1966, and Nat'l Child Welfare Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1964-1965.

Harry J. Hirt, Dept. of Hawaii. Dept. Cmdr. 1993-1994, Nat'l Homeland Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1993-2012 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1992-1993.

Richard M. Hochbrueckner, Dept. of New York. Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1988-1990, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1993-1994 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1990-2012.

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Gone crazy. Back soon.

TWO FRIENDS were watching a western on TV. As the hero rode on horseback toward the cliff's edge, one of the men said, "I bet you \$50 he goes over the cliff."

"OK, you're on," the other man replied.

The hero rode straight over the cliff. As the second man handed over the money, the first man looked at it and said, "You know, I feel a little guilty about taking this. I've actually seen the movie before."

"Me, too," his friend quipped, "but I didn't think he'd be stupid enough to make the same mistake twice."

A WOMAN visited a modern-art gallery. One painting was bright blue with vivid orange swirls, and the one hanging next to it was black with lime-green splotches.

The artist stood nearby, so as politely as she could, the woman said to him, "I'm sorry, but I just don't understand your paintings."

"I paint what I feel inside me," the artist replied.

"I see," the woman replied innocently. "Have you tried Alka-Seltzer?"

THE I.T. SPECIALIST told the executive, "We have to upgrade the computer network."

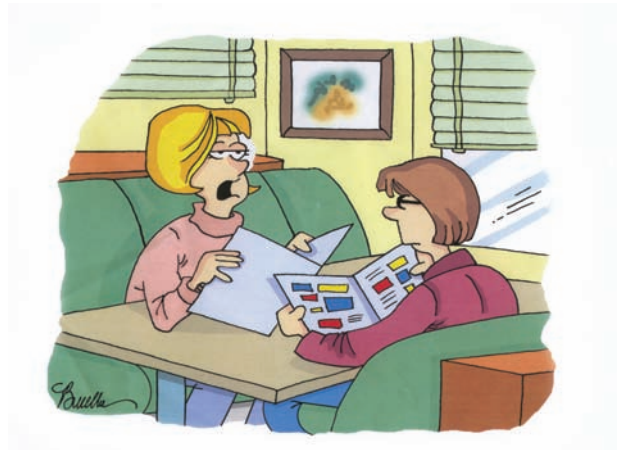
"Oh, no. We can't get rid of these computers," the executive replied.

"Why not?" the specialist asked. "With a new system, our operations will be faster. Why would you want to keep these outdated machines?"

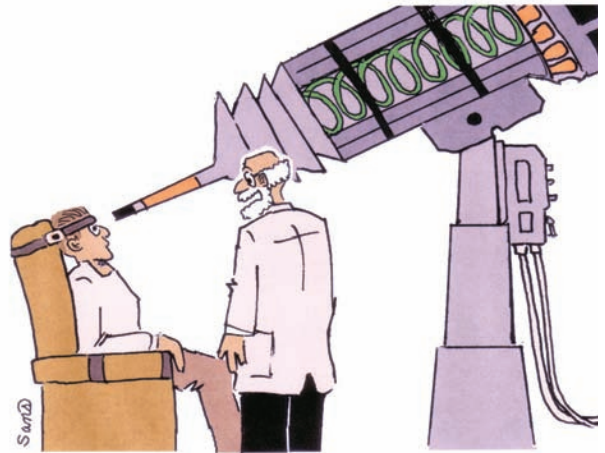
The executive replied in a low voice, "They know too much."



"My husband and I are thinking of moving to Canada to be closer to our prescriptions."



"I don't think it's so much my inability to lose weight as my ability to find it."



"Brace yourself. This is old-school laser surgery."

AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS are the ones who try to get back at you after you cut them off.

A GROUP OF WOMEN decided to have a picnic in a country field. Just as they sat down to eat, an angry bull appeared on the scene. Everyone ran for cover, but one unfortunate woman – wearing a red shawl – got the animal's attention.

She managed to leap over a fence just before the bull caught up to her. Trying to catch her breath, she shouted, "You beast! I've been a vegetarian my whole life. There's gratitude for you!"

A CIA EMPLOYEE quit to become a bishop. Now all his files are marked "Sacred" and "Top Sacred."

"IRAN AND ITS NUKES. They've got the rods all ready to go into the reactor. They're waiting on the installer. He's supposed to come out Friday between 10 and 2." – David Letterman



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